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THE TIMES

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DETAILS AND TOKEN, WEEKEND

Short demoted as Blair wields axe



Clare Short: TV walkout was the final straw

BY JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT
TONY BLAIR last night removed Clare Short from her post as Shadow Transport Secretary in a ruthless reshuffle of his top team.

our leader failed to secure her a better offer. Mr Blair took full advantage of his success on Wednesday night — when his favoured team was re-elected by the party's MPs — by carrying out a bigger reshuffle than expected and ignoring the convention that only those elected should receive Shadow Cabinet posts.

placed by Alistair Darling, who moves up from his job as City spokesman to the post he always wanted. And Harriet Harman, another key ally of Mr Blair, moves sideways to social security, where she will play a big role in the Shadow Chancellor's welfare-to-work campaign.

scrapping child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds, made clear last night that she would back Mr Brown's calls for tough spending decisions. In a surprise move, Mr Blair has decided to bring in Frank Field, the chairman of the Social Security Select Committee, to advise his top team. Mr Field, known for his independent ideas which have sometimes been further to the right than some Tory rightwingers, will join Mr Blair, Ms Harman, David Blunkett and Ms Short on a new committee, chaired by Mr Brown, to co-ordinate the welfare-to-work policies.

It is believed that Ms Short was offered membership as a sop after initially refusing the job at overseas development. Ms Short, who only nine months ago was a rising star and well in with the Labour leadership, has been a loose cannon in recent months and Mr Blair decided some time ago he wanted to move her.

with Mr Blair on Wednesday night, and yesterday she had two further telephone conversations with the leader, during which she was said to have been offered the ODA post again or environmental protection, which has been re-created as a Shadow Cabinet post. A leadership spokesman said that Ms Short accepted the first job offered her and that the proposal had been made partly because rail privatisation had been completed. "He (Mr Blair) has got huge respect for Clare and likes her and is delighted she Continued on page 2, col 1



"Is this Mastermind or has Clare Short walked out again?"

Victory for Portillo over £4bn RAF order

BY MICHAEL EVANS AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

A £4 billion defence order that will safeguard thousands of jobs was announced yesterday after Michael Heseltine was called in to resolve a Cabinet battle between the Chancellor and the Defence Secretary.

Mr Portillo's decision to favour the British bids for all three contracts over American rivals was welcomed last night by the defence industry and MPs. BAC said that 10,000 jobs would be created throughout Britain — either directly or indirectly — as a result of its £2 billion share of the order.

The announcement represented a victory for Mr Portillo over Kenneth Clarke, who had wanted the orders delayed until the autumn to save money. But Conservative backbenchers were becoming increasingly angry about the uncertainty caused by the clash between the ministers, and on Tuesday — after facing an embarrassing question in the Commons — John Major asked Mr Heseltine to arbitrate.

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said: "The competitions were closely contested, and the results confirm that the defence industry in the UK can compete successfully on a global basis. David Clark, also welcomed the announcement, but he condemned the "weeks of Cabinet in-fighting and indecision" and accused Mr Portillo and Mr Clarke of playing politics with people's jobs.

The three met for 45 minutes on Wednesday evening and finally agreed the terms of the orders in time for yesterday's Cabinet meeting. British Aerospace was awarded the £2 billion contract to supply the RAF with 21 Nimrod 2000 aircraft, and it will collaborate with the French company Matra on a second order — for more than 1,000 conventionally armed stand-off missiles.

The conflict between the two ministers was described by Whitehall sources yesterday as a classic stand-off between a spending department and the Treasury. "But because of the personalities involved, it could have become a real cause célèbre for the Right and Left of the Conservative Party."

The third contract, for a new air-launched anti-tank weapon, goes to GEC and Marconi.

Mr Heseltine — whose own Cabinet career was interrupted in the Eighties over a defence contract dispute — was called in to arbitrate after Mr Major was put on the defensive by a senior Tory MP in the Commons on Tuesday.

Officials said that the Chancellor had given away nothing that would lead to extra spending commitments, since the money for the RAF orders had already been accounted for in the Defence Ministry's long-term costing. The public spending ceiling would remain at £28.2 billion, an official said: "It's up to the Ministry of Defence how they allocate their resources."

Jobs boost, page 9
Leading article, page 19



Britain's Mary King jumps to first place yesterday during the individual equestrian event, which lasts for three days

Atlanta turns on 'foreign whingers'

THE people of Atlanta are angry and bewildered about the way their city has been lambasted for organisational shortfalls during week one of the centennial Olympics.



Quentin Letts in Atlanta finds that negative foreign media coverage of the centennial Olympic Games has prompted a fierce local backlash

Some have resorted to threats and Bill Campbell, the mayor, detected a "bias against Southerners" was perhaps only half-jesting when he remarked that the international media should be taken to the Olympic rifle range, put against a wall, and shot. A local radio station has run regular denunciations of the "foreign lickspittle whingers" (to use one of the politer terms), and *The Times*, among other newspapers, was attacked for having the temerity to relay to its readers the transport and computer chaos of the opening days of what Atlanta promised would be "the greatest games of all

time". I now have an insight into how one of my predecessors, William Howard Russell, the 19th Century war reporter, felt when he passed this way in the 1860s covering the American civil war for *The Times*. His despatches, particularly the description of the hellish first battle of Bull Run, earned him numerous foes. He had to take refuge, finally fleeing the American continent. Historians have since argued that the Confederacy, although it had been dis-

mayed by Russell's reports, later suffered from the absence of his objectivity. Reporting the Olympics takes less courage and skill, but there have been moments when I have concealed my press' identity badge lest it should lead to trouble with peppy natives. During an interview on Atlanta's Radio WGST, I was sworn at, shouted at, and generally abused by the disc jockey Sean Hannity, who later gave listeners the telephone number for the British

Press corps and the Atlanta media centre. Numerous hate calls followed, promising awful things. Happily, there were also some calls of support from Georgians who apologised for Hannity's boorishness. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution carried aggressive messages. One ran simply: "To Quentin Letts of the London Times — kiss my grist!" (Grist being a maize breakfast porridge served in the deep South and little liked by outsiders). An Atlanta discussion group has rallied to the city's support, attacking visitors who are unhappy with the Olympics' transport system and underground railway, which duly obliged yesterday with a rush-hour derailment. Olympics, pages 15, 39 — 44

Burundi massacre fears after coup

FROM SAM KILEY IN BURUNDI

THERE were fears last night that the central African republic of Burundi was about to be engulfed by new Hutu-Tutsi atrocities following a coup by the army. The military closed the country's borders and airports and outlawed political parties as the United Nations reported two provincial towns surrounded by Tutsi rebels.

Para-commandos from the former colonial power Belgium are on alert to evacuate the more than 300 Belgian nationals if the situation deteriorates further. "Extremists are exploiting a cycle of ethnic fear for their own political ends. The world has to act now to break that cycle," David Bryer, director of Oxfam, said in London. Burundi's tragic history is stained with tribal massacres. The worst was in 1972 when Tutsis worried about their grip on power killed an estimated 100,000 Hutus. Army takeover, page 14

Home loan rates lowest since 1965

Home loans fell to their lowest level since January 1965 after the Nationwide Building Society shaved 0.25 per cent off its standard mortgage to 6.49 per cent. The new rate, which takes effect from September 1, represents a monthly saving of nearly £7 on a £50,000 repayment mortgage. Other lenders held off matching Nationwide. Page 23

Israeli peace call

The Israeli Prime Minister threw down a peace challenge to Syria by offering to pull his occupying troops out of southern Lebanon in exchange for peace along the northern Israeli border. Pages 11, 16, 19

Black boxes find

The investigation into the crash of TWA Flight 800 was close to a breakthrough as experts in Washington examined the aircraft's "black boxes", which divers recovered off Long Island. Page 15

Imran apology

Imran Khan withdrew his defence that his allegations of ball-tampering against Ian Botham were justified, and offered the former England cricket captain a public apology. Pages 5, 22

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Tories call up Thatcher to revive grassroots



Thatcher: praised Redwood and delivered snub to Portillo

By JILL SHERMAN AND ANDREW PIERCE

BARONESS THATCHER has been asked to play a substantial role in the Conservative election campaign. Although she has lost much of her influence with MPs, party strategists argue that she is still a considerable asset in rallying support among grassroots Tories.

Senior party sources say that Lady Thatcher, 70, will campaign in marginal seats, particularly where she knows the MPs, and will again address the candidates' conference at the beginning of the campaign.

She is more likely to provide photo-opportunities than big speeches. The

ex-premier played a relatively discreet part in the 1992 election campaign, when she had only recently been jilted from office. Her main setpiece was addressing the candidates, with a show of unity with her successor, John Major. Although she spent much of the election abroad, she visited her friends' constituencies before she went. The tour was organised by Conservative Central Office, but she chose where she visited.

She is still close to some right-wing MPs, including John Redwood and John Whittingdale, her former parliamentary private secretary, but several former admirers say she has lost her influence on the party.

Four potential future Tory leaders are heading the Conservative Party's summer publicity over the next two months. Party sources stressed that the campaign would not focus solely on attacking Labour, but would involve several policy announcements next month.

Michael Heseltine, the deputy prime minister, will take the lead on jobs and enterprise. Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, will head the attacks on Labour. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, will focus on law and order, and Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, will take overall responsibility for constitutional issues, backed by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, and William

Hague, the Welsh Secretary. Today Mr Forsyth will take the Scottish frontbench to Linlithgow, near Edinburgh, to campaign against Labour's plans for a Scottish Parliament.

Tomorrow John Redwood is scheduled to fly to the United States for a nine-day lecture tour, meeting leading figures in the Republican party. Lady Thatcher has given him a glowing letter of introduction, while delivering a thinly veiled snub to Mr Portillo, who was once seen as her favourite heir.

She has turned down Mr Portillo's request to attend a fund-raising function, at a date of her choosing, at his Enfield Southgate conservative association.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BBC governors keep World Service plan

BBC governors yesterday defied proposed changes to the World Service by John Birt, the Director-General. At their monthly meeting — their first opportunity to discuss their monthly public concern about the restructuring — the 12 governors said they believed the changes would "yield significant benefits, enhancing the quality of services and reducing costs". They urged Mr Birt to give priority to keeping the English and foreign-language news operations of the World Service at the same location.

The most contentious proposal has been the merger of the World Service's English-language news with general radio and television news. The lease on Bush House, the World Service's traditional home, runs out in 2005.

Highland fling for DJ

The Radio One disc jockey Chris Evans said yesterday that he would be moving to the Scottish Highlands next week to broadcast his breakfast show from the BBC's studios in Inverness. Evans said that if the relocation worked well he would buy a house and live in the Highlands because the air was cleaner than in London. The other seven members of his show will also transfer for the week.

Tithe barn owner fined

The owner of a 15th-century tithe barn was fined £8,000 yesterday after being convicted on four counts of causing reckless damage to an ancient monument. Luton County Court had been told the barn had been subjected to excavations to its drainage system and moat and illegal foundations and trenches had been dug. John Hope of Little Wymondley, Hertfordshire, said he would appeal.

Police posted overseas

Irish police officers are to be stationed abroad as part of a government package to combat drug-related crime. Nora Owen, the Justice Minister, said two police liaison officers would be stationed in Madrid and The Hague as part of the battle against drugs. There will also be more judges, powers to seize the assets of criminals and restrictions on the right to silence.

Two-acre island for sale

A tiny island with its own shipwreck has been put on sale for £275,000 by a millionaire businessman. Two-acre Thorn Island sits a quarter of a mile off Pembrokehire, southwest Wales. A 19th-century oval fort on the island has been converted into a hotel. Peter Williamsow has windsurfed and fished for seven years from the wreck of a Scottish merchant vessel which sank in 1895.

House prices recover

House prices in Scotland have shown their biggest increase since January 1994, according to figures published by the Royal Bank of Scotland. But although the average price rose by 0.9 per cent, the market was simply regaining lost ground and the trend for housing in Scotland was flat, the bank said. Sales figures for May were also lower than expected. 31-year low, page 23

Peugeot holiday deal

Peugeot workers have agreed by two-to-one to the company's demands that the plant in Ryton, Coventry, shut down for all of August — but for this year only. The company had also scrapped the traditional September holiday week, but has offered a week's paid absence in September made up of scheduled "down days", during which essential maintenance will be carried out.

Sheep may safely graze

A ram has died after what its owner believes to be a record-breaking 11 seasons "serving" 1,000 ewes at North Haoping Wells Farm, Eastgate, Co Durham. The 14-year-old, called Zed, was found dead in a field by John Skidmore, the 1991 Sheep Farmer of the Year, who believes its serving of 600 ewes in the past three seasons alone might be unrivalled. "He died with a smile on his face," Mr Skidmore said.

Gaffe-prone Short fails new Labour's smooth-talking test

By ALICE THOMSON AND PHILIP WEBSTER

CLARE SHORT yesterday paid the penalty for being left behind in new Labour's long march to media friendliness.

A series of gaffes, culminating in an abrupt and stormy departure from a television studio earlier this week, highlighted her failure to fit in. Her demotion to Overseas Development spokesman means that she is unlikely to gain any further publicity unless accompanied by the Princess of Wales to a war zone.

The left-wing Ms Short, who campaigned for Margaret Beckett as leader and who once called Mr Blair "a poisonous voice", proved that ideologically she could go a long way fast when he was elected two years ago. She was soon being hailed as part of brave new Labour and the woman who initiated all-women selection lists for Labour candidates.

Only some tabloid newspapers seemed to dislike her, labelling her "too ugly to be

raped" after she tried to ban Page Three girls.

But last year it seemed that every time she was given a microphone, in the words of an irritated Labour aide she "resorted to unprofessional and naive drivel from the days of old Labour." Other Labour sources said she was "infelicitous and has the fuse the length of her name".

She felt increasingly compelled to stray from her transport brief. First she embarrassed Mr Blair when she said on air that Labour should consider legalisation of cannabis.

She ran into trouble when she appeared to be less than supportive of Harriet Harman over her decision to send her son to a selective grammar school. This April she revived arguments over Labour's tax plans for middle income earners when she said she would not object to paying a bit more tax on her salary of £35,000 a year.

When it was made clear that

she should shut up, she retaliated: "I don't respect people who hide behind those kinds of description" and later added: "I will not be silenced." She was replaced by her deputy in interviews.

The last straw came on Wednesday when she removed her microphone and walked out of a television interview after she was challenged about the Tube strike.

But many left-wing backbenchers sympathised. They see Ms Short as new Labour's canary, prepared to stick her neck out when principles are being betrayed. They admire her honesty, bravery and Brummy accent. Like John Prescott, one of her closest allies, she doesn't behave like a modern politician.

When asked why she hadn't merely lied about cannabis, the staunch Catholic said: "I cannot live in a world where I am obliged to lie. If that's the price of politics, I'm not paying it." The price of honesty will be regular trips to the Third World.

Gordon Brown's power-base within the Labour leadership was strengthened further yesterday by the appointments of Andrew Smith to Shadow Transport Secretary and Alistair Darling to Shadow Treasury Chief Secretary.

Mr Smith and Mr Darling are quintessentially new Labour but both have worked for the Shadow Chancellor for several years.

Marjorie Mowlam, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary and a close confidante of Tony Blair, apologised to the Commons after failing to disclose a £21,000 payment from Mirror Group Newspapers. She did not declare the payment for a researcher in her office.



Dr Baldwin, his rottweiler and truck. The NHS paid £2,300 moving expenses

One medical man and his dog go back to America

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

AN AMERICAN doctor whose dog was flown to Britain at the expense of the National Health Service when he took up a job here is returning after a year.

The health trust that paid Dr Craig Baldwin's £2,300 relocation package on top of a £52,000 salary denies embarrassment. "We would have had a lot more egg on our face had we not been able to recruit a consultant anaesthetist," Anne Botterill, spokeswoman for Hartlepool and East Durham NHS Trust, said.

Dr Baldwin, 52, was criticised by trade unions and Labour politicians when the trust paid an air ticket and six months' quarantine for his

rottweiler Fritz and shipped his pick-up truck across. He said: "I would be lying if I said the row over bringing my dog to England wasn't one of the things that has pushed me to go. It did upset me."

But homesickness is the chief reason for Dr Baldwin and his wife Tricia returning to St Louis, her home town. His new employers at a children's hospital have left him to pay up to £5,000 relocation costs.

Mrs Baldwin, 51, gave birth to twins boys shortly after her husband started work at Hartlepool General Hospital last July. He said: "My wife has a large family in the States and she has faced a lot of social

isolation here. Perhaps because we are an older couple with small babies, we don't seem to fit in socially."

Dr Baldwin was surprised by the row over what he thought was a private arrangement. "You need to de-Stalinise your politics and your hospitals a little bit," he said.

The trust says it would have lost accreditation to train junior doctors without an anaesthetist. It has recruited a British replacement.

Dr Baldwin's family received news that a warm North Country welcome. Their home was burgled and a gang of boys continually threw eggs and stones at it.

Blair wields the axe

Continued from page 1

is taking a very important job in a very important tradition in the Labour Party," the spokesman said.

The environmental protection post goes to Michael Meacher. He moves from employment, where he was always overshadowed by Mr Blunkett, who heads the joint education and employment brief.

Mr Blair's decision to swap Ms Harman and Mr Smith was given various interpretations yesterday. Some insiders believe that Mr Smith has not been radical enough for Mr Blair and has balked at making tough spending decisions. He has rowed with Mr Brown

over extending unemployment benefits, and over changes to child benefit.

But other sources suggest that Ms Harman has given a disappointing performance at health and failed to tackle some key issues. Mr Blair's office made clear that he had been keen to move her "to give her a new lease of life".

He suggested that the job would give her a boost after her endorsement by the parliamentary party, which rejected her to the Shadow Cabinet in spite of the anger over her decision over her son's schooling.

Mr Blair is expected to announce a modest reshuffle of other frontbenchers today.

£90m jail building scheme will ease overcrowding

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

AN EMERGENCY building programme for the Prison Service was announced yesterday after ministers were told that overcrowding could provoke disturbances.

The service won an estimated £90 million for vital security improvements to five jails plus the provision of 3,300 places to cater for an inmate population rising at the rate of 250 a week.

But the Treasury has told Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to find the money from within the present Home Office budget. It will come from an underspend of funds on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme.

Richard Tilt, the new director general of the Prison Service, told governors in the 135 jails in England and Wales of his success in getting urgent extra money to reduce overcrowding. "It has been a hard-fought battle but I think the arguments won the day," he said. "Without the money

there would have been a continuing risk of not having the best security standards in key local prisons."

He warned governors of the difficulties in dealing with a prison population predicted to reach 60,000 by next March, compared with an earlier forecast of 54,500. Last week the number of inmates was 55,851, an increase of 280 on the previous week.

The additional money is to be spent on improving security at Manchester jail, Durham, Bristol, High Down near Sutton in Surrey and Woodhill near Milton Keynes, which all hold some high-risk inmates. It will also be used to refurbish 1,300 cells in vacant Victorian wings at Liverpool, Leeds, Preston and Wandsworth jails. The first modernised cells will be available for use in Liverpool and Preston next April, in Leeds by December next year and at Wandsworth by early 1998.

Two thousand additional

places are to be provided by building 20 houseblocks in prison grounds. One thousand of the new cells will be open by July 1997 and a further thousand in early 1998.

David Roddian, general secretary of the Prison Governors' Association, said: "This argument over money has brought us to the brink of disaster. We sincerely hope that lessons have been learnt for the future."

The scale of the problem was highlighted last week when there were only 60 empty beds in the northern area of the Prison Service. Inmates have had to be moved to jails in southern England to ease the pressure, particularly in the North West.

The rapidly rising prison population is a result of government policy. Figures published yesterday show that the tough rhetoric on law and order by both main parties has been reflected in longer sentences being imposed.

Plea to deny asylum to extremists

THE Home Secretary is to demand that asylum be refused to supporters of terrorism as part of a G7 package to curb international terrorism (Richard Ford writes).

Michael Howard wants the United Nations to declare that planning, funding or inciting terrorism is contrary to UN principles. Under his plan, anyone engaged in such activities would not be entitled to asylum under the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees.

He is to put his plan to an anti-terrorism summit of foreign and interior ministers from G7 states and Russia in Paris on Tuesday. He said he was confident that the plan would win agreement at the UN. Mr Howard is also to put forward plans for an international directory of counter-terrorism experience.

The Government has already announced proposals to give British courts powers to prosecute "foreign extremists" for conspiring or inciting terrorist or criminal acts abroad while in the UK.

National Trust needs £210m for repairs

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

MORE than £210 million will be needed over the next five years to start work on halting serious deterioration of some of Britain's most historic houses, the National Trust said yesterday.

Charles Nunneley, the trust's chairman, said the charity's ability to maintain its estate was threatened by reduced government support, taxation changes and a decline in traditional sources of income such as legacies.

Presenting the trust's annual report, Mr Nunneley said: "The principal challenge now confronting us is to convey to

the world that we are a charity, with equally great liabilities, which needs money and continuing support."

Among properties in need of repair are Petworth House in Sussex, Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire and Knole in Kent. The bill for these alone is put at more than £40 million. Work includes shoring up the crumbling park wall at Knole, replacing rotting beams holding up the first floor at Petworth, and repair of the 16th and 17th-century wall tapestries at Hardwick.

Last year the trust's income from legacies fell 17 per cent, from £24.6 million to £20.4 million, and accounted

for only 13 per cent of income, compared with 17 per cent the year before. Legacies are expected to continue to decline because people are living longer and need more money to support themselves.

Mr Nunneley said the trust was grateful for £5 million in Heritage Lottery Fund grants that were under negotiation but would like to see the rules changed to allow such grants to be given for the care and maintenance of existing properties, not just for the acquisition of new properties.

The trust has 23 million members whose annual fees contributed £46 million of its income last year.

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Hitmen hired to kill husband Private eye's last inquiry was into wife's murder plot

By ADRIAN LEE

THERE was no shortage of suspects when a private detective nicknamed Barry the Bastard was discovered bludgeoned to death in a bath of cold water. As one rival of Barry Trigwell put it when asked who was the likely killer: "It could have been any one of 50 people."

But when police began unravelling the 44-year-old's complex affairs, they discovered that there was one person who most wanted him dead. Anne Trigwell, 43, his wife of less than a year, had a strong alibi — she was 6,000 miles away in her native South Africa — but her motives were stronger. She had a lover and stood to inherit £400,000 from insurance and mortgage bonds if her husband died.

Yesterday she began a life sentence after being convicted at Birmingham Crown Court of arranging for two South African hitmen to murder her husband at their home in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands. It was said Mr Justice Nelson, "a cold, calculated office. A chilling murder."

"You inspired and planned the death of your husband and you were actively involved in ensuring that the killers were

able to perform their gruesome and vicious task."

Mr Trigwell was beaten to death in February last year when the hitmen's gun failed to go off and his body was placed in the bath to hamper the forensic investigation. He was discovered by John Wright, his partner at the Birmingham branch of the Nationwide Investigations Agency.

Mrs Trigwell, who had ostensibly flown to South Africa to care for a pregnant daughter by a previous marriage, was persuaded back to England to attend his inquest by police, who told her she was not a suspect. She shocked them by her lack of emotion.

A few days later she was arrested and eight officers travelled to South Africa where they discovered links between Mrs Trigwell and a nightclub owner, Alex Miri, 51. Mrs Trigwell was said to have paid him £15,000 for the contract killing, carried out by Loren Sundkvist and Paul Ras.

They came to Britain and tried to lure the private detective to his death. But he suspected someone was trying to kill him and, a week before

his death, he asked his sister, Julie Armener, to pass on information to a trusted fellow investigator if anything happened.

He avoided meetings with the men, who telephoned him offering work, thinking it unusual that they should have his home number.

The telephone number of the Clover Hotel, in Sutton Coldfield, obtained by the victim when he used the 1471 call-back system, and passed to his sister, later helped police.

The men returned and, according to a receptionist, were delivered a package by a woman matching Mrs Trigwell's description. The receptionist, fearing it might contain drugs, opened it to find £300 cash and a freshly cut Yale key. It was revealed and handed to one of the South Africans.

Police believe the receptionist unwittingly handed over the key which the men later used to gain entry to Mr Trigwell's house, before killing him and then locking the door as they left. By the time he was discovered, his killers were already on their way back to South Africa where they remain out of the reach of the law.

Detective Superintendent Ken Evans, who led the investigation, said he was still hopeful the nightclub owner and the two assassins would be brought to justice, despite the present lack of an extradition treaty between Britain and South Africa.

"To me personally that is a very high priority. I would like to see them before our courts and it is one for the respective governments to consider."

Of Mrs Trigwell, he said: "I think she is a very callous, cold-hearted woman who calculated what she was going to do. There was no other motive than money. There wasn't one single bit of emotion throughout the whole of this — that was how she was throughout interview."



A skater makes tracks through the London traffic, above, while Katrina Manson arrives in her father's dinghy on time for a job interview



Commuters find a way around Tube strikes

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THEY came by boat, bicycle and scooter, on skates or on foot, an army of 1.6 million commuters determined to beat the Tube strike and make it into work on time.

With the London Underground paralysed for the fourth time this summer, the capital's workforce is resorting to novel means of transport to reach the office.

Katrina Manson, 16, was so keen to get to a job interview in the City that her father gave her a lift in his dinghy up the Thames from their home in Chiswick, west London.

Mr Manson said: "Katrina was furious last week when she had to struggle to get to work. She did not get there until midday and she ended up walking a lot of the way. We were determined that she should not be beaten again."

They set off at 7am and Katrina arrived on time three hours later.

The pavements and parks of the capital were packed with pedestrians, cyclists and in-line skaters making their

way to work in the sun from 7am onwards as temperatures reached the mid-70s.

Nadia Martin, 24, who works at a City merchant bank, skated the six miles from Earls Court. "We have showers at work so, as the weather is nice, I thought why not? I bought the cheapest pair I could find for £40 and this is only the second time I have been out on them."

Bicycles unused for years were seen wobbling towards the Square Mile with pin-striped workers navigating their way to the office. One senior civil servant said he had borrowed his 14-year-old daughter's racing bike to get to Whitehall.

Martin Young, 31, a financial adviser, completed a 40-mile round trip by cycling from his office in Staines to Waterloo to catch a train to a meeting in south London. "The strike is a pain, but I can get showered in the office. I have really quite enjoyed cycling today."

Ian Smith, 53, managing

director of the Midlands Shires Farmers Board, walked from Marble Arch to a business meeting at Waterloo. "I am not happy," he said. "It's quite hot. I set out at 8.45 and don't expect to get there until 9.50. This is hard work. I would not describe myself as a regular walker."

Thousands of others going to the Lord's Test and a Buckingham Palace garden party were forced into long marches in the sun from mainline railway stations. Brian and Christine Knight, garden party guests, had to carry their formal clothes in suitcases for two miles after arriving at King's Cross from Lincoln.

Many taxi and minicab firms were refusing all bookings after City executives reserved transport to meetings weeks in advance. One firm offering lifts on motorcycles said that its fleet was fully booked from dawn and it was already taking reservations for planned strike days in September.



Barry and Anne Trigwell: she stood to inherit £400,000 after he was beaten to death at home

Funeral for girl murdered on trip to France

SCHOOLMATES wept yesterday at a simple funeral service for Caroline Dickinson, the 13-year-old raped and murdered at a French youth hostel last week.


The town of Launceston in Cornwall was in mourning as family, friends and teachers crowded into the parish church to say farewell to the child killed during a week-long holiday in Brittany. Among the congregation were the 39 pupils and five teachers who went with Caroline on the

trip, including the four companions who slept in nearby beds as she was raped and suffocated in the hostel at Pleine Fougères, near St Malo.

The church of St Mary Magdalene, where the funeral took place, is near Launceston College, where Caroline was a second-year pupil. Her parents, Susan and John Dickinson, and sister Jennifer, 11, led the congregation. A French contingent included the Mayor and

Deputy Mayor of Pleine Fougères and representatives from the hostel. Caroline's poem, *My Cat* — written when she was 10 — was read by Robert Bone, head teacher of Launceston Primary School. The service was followed by a burial attended by family and close friends.

A 39-year-old vagrant has been charged with Caroline's murder and rape. Patrice Pade will plead guilty to the charges at his trial in the late autumn.



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The taxman wants his slice of golf profits

By RICHARD DUCE

WELL-HEELED residents of Lytham St Annes can expect the unwanted attentions of the taxman after the recent golf Open Championship.

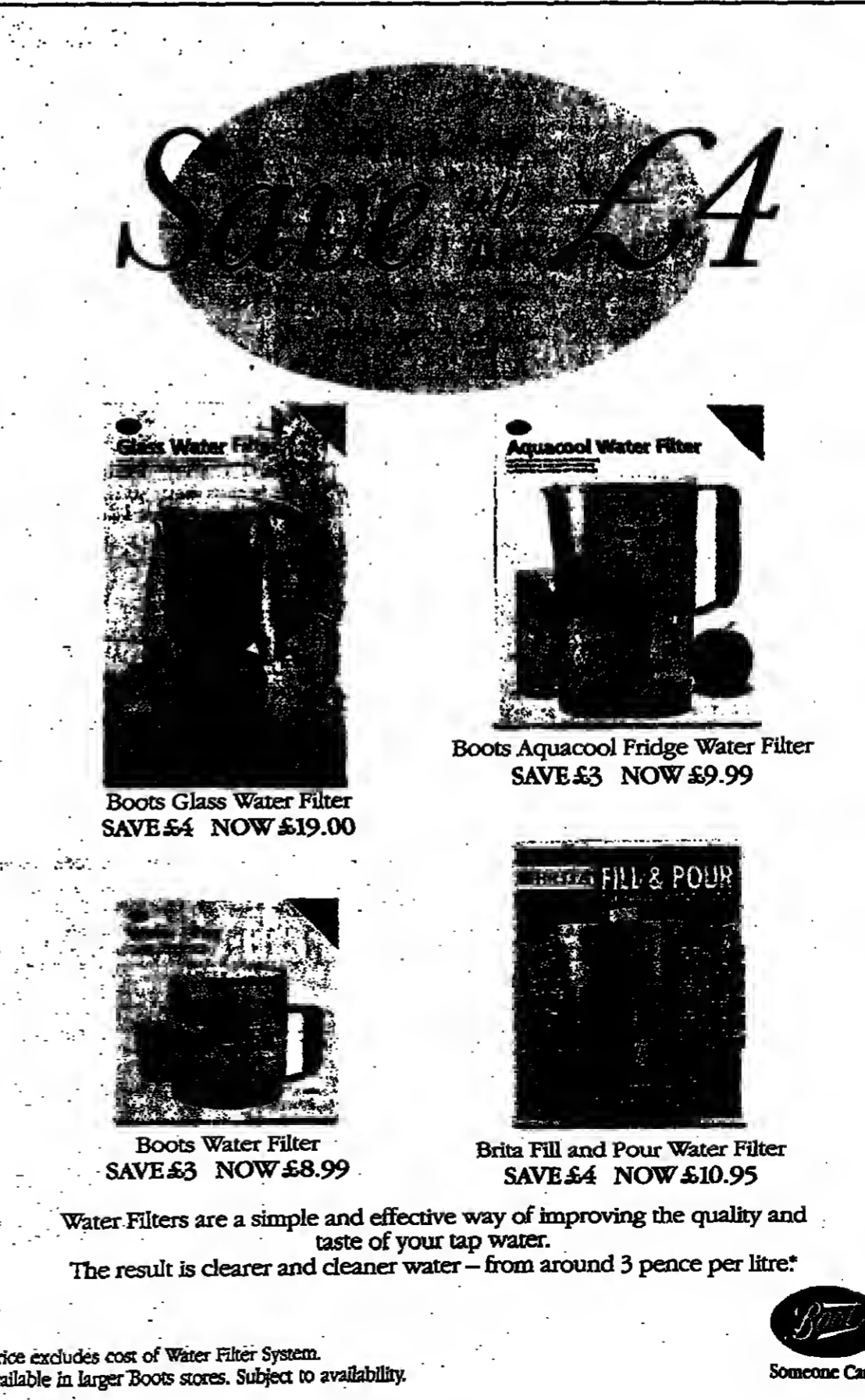
Many let their homes close to the Lancashire course for the duration of the ten-day competition for about £5,000. However, the dealings were monitored by a small team of Inland Revenue investigators who studied the small advertisements in newspapers and toured the streets surrounding the famous course.

Some managed to get £300 for allowing their drives and garages to be used for parking, while others set up food stalls or became overnight landlords by placing "Vacancies" signs in their windows. In all the Opea was estimated to be worth £18 million to the town.

Tax officials always monitor economic activity surrounding big sporting events, such as Wimbledon, and an unscheduled tax return through the post is a fair indication that they are after a cut of any money made. In the last financial year the Inland Revenue recovered £88.7 million in such operations. Car boot sales are also monitored.

The Inland Revenue said yesterday: "If someone is simply clearing out their garage as a one-off sale we wouldn't be interested, but if they are regularly trading then we are."

"If people have not been declaring tax, come to us and tell us about it. We don't want to frighten people, we will treat them fairly."



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£150,000 fine for airline that put passengers at risk

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH MIDLAND Airways was fined £150,000 plus £25,000 costs yesterday for "an act of gross negligence" which had led to the crash of a Boeing 737 jet and the deaths of 182 people.

Judge Daniel Rodwell was told that the jet left East Midlands airport bound for Lanzarote but was forced to make an emergency landing 13 minutes later because the airline's staff had failed to replace oil caps after a detailed inspection of the engines.

Luton Crown Court was told that, had it not been for the vigilance and skill of the pilot, Barney Reichman, who noticed the rapid oil loss, the aircraft would have crashed, "with a very high probability of killing the people on board".

British Midland Airways admitted two charges of negligently endangering life under articles 50 and 51 of the 1989 Air Navigation Order. It was the first prosecution of a scheduled airline by the Civil Aviation Authority.

Judge Rodwell said: "There were quite serious defects in the company's procedures. The public must have confidence that companies which run airlines take all proper and necessary steps to ensure

the safety of passengers." Edmund Lawson, QC, for the company, said immense damage had been caused to the company's reputation and this was real commercial damage. The company accepted it had been negligent, but there was no suggestion of recklessness, he said.

Last night John Woolfe, deputy chairman and chief operations director of the airline, said that the judge's comments were very fair. "We have done everything humanly possible to ensure that nothing like this can ever happen again."

Two maintenance engineers who had failed to spot that caps on the oil sumps of each engine had not been replaced were dismissed and the airline has now drastically changed its maintenance procedures. One of the unnamed engineers is still working on jet aircraft for another airline.

Hours earlier a report by the Department of Transport's air accident investigation branch said that the incident, and two others involving faulty maintenance within the past three years on other airlines, cast "doubt upon the adequacy of the organisation and infrastructure which has developed to support aircraft



The Princess of Wales and Jane Atkinson, her former press adviser, leaving Kensington Palace separately yesterday after a ten-minute meeting. Ms Atkinson, who resigned while the Princess was on holiday in France, said that it was an "amicable" final handover.

Fundraiser is less than charitable about Duchess

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE Duchess of York is forever late and disorganised — but impressive at raising money for good causes, according to a colleague in a leading charity. Dominic Prince, a prominent member of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, says in *The Spectator* that her behaviour made committee stalwarts grit their teeth.

Mr Prince writes: "She is always at least half-an-hour late for meetings, complains to me about tabloid journalists and is hopelessly disorganised,

so that nothing we decide gets followed up. At our last meeting she invited her bank manager and kept cracking jokes about her overdraft, which was then still a secret. If she occasionally makes us grit our teeth, then so be it. There is a trade-off between income and the royal desire to be fitted and revered."

Mr Prince, a financial journalist, was invited by the Duchess to sit on the Corporate Advisory Council of the charity which his father helped to found. "On the positive side, she got people like Robert Stigwood, the

Hollywood producer, to cough up a good deal of much-needed loot. I watched her do it, and very impressive it was. She promised that her then-stranded husband would attend a golf tournament and got pledges on the spot. Last year she was responsible for raising £200,000 of the £2 million income. Its income was £2,000 when she started."

"After one of her more disagreeable encounters with the newspapers, she tendered her resignation to the charity. There were some who thought she was a go-good trollop and should go,

but there were others with more foresight."

The Duchess is patron to seven charities. Yesterday her New York publicist, Howard J. Rubenstein, said: "Despite the false and negative image in this story, the Duchess will not be deterred from her important work on behalf of children and those in need."

The Motor Neurone Disease Association said: "The Duchess of York has provided much-appreciated support to people with motor neurone disease and contributed enormously to the success of fundraising activities."

Imran withdraws tampering claim against Botham

BY TIM JONES

IMRAN KHAN made a dramatic climbdown yesterday when he withdrew his defence that his allegations of ball-tampering against Ian Botham were justified, and offered the former England cricket captain a public apology.

Imran withdrew his claims against Botham after the court was told by a string of witnesses, including the former England captain Brian Close and David Gower, and the current captain, Mike Atherton, that they had never seen him treat the ball in a way they would regard as cheating.

Imran had relied for his claim on television footage of the 1982 Test match against Pakistan which showed him pushing the ball with his fingers. Charles Gray, QC, for Botham, said: "You accused him of illegally tampering with the ball by using his thumbnails to pick the seam and scratching it, and by throwing the ball so it could be scuffed. Do you realise Mr Botham regards these allegations as extremely serious?"

IMRAN: "Cheating is serious, yes, sir."

GRAY: "Now you have heard the explanation are you prepared to apologise for the fact that the allegation was made in court and persisted with for nine days?"

IMRAN: "Yes sir. If Mr Botham says he was squeezing the ball, I will accept it."

GRAY: "The allegations of cheating have received the widest publicity and yet are only being withdrawn now."

IMRAN: "At no stage have I

ever called Mr Botham a cheat. It is technically ball-tampering. I have never regarded it as cheating."

Asked by Mr Carman to describe his feelings at standing before a libel jury, Imran said: "It has caused a lot of pain. Apart from the unhappiness and the time it has taken it has produced tension at a time when my wife is pregnant."

"I made every effort to settle the case short of humiliating myself, but I realised that Botham and Lamb didn't want to settle. They wanted me to be humiliated."

Imran said he knew Lamb and Botham were not racists and that he had never called them that. However, he said, he was aware of racism in British society and said Asian cricketers, particularly in the North, had suffered from it.

Before yesterday's hearing ended Imran was passed a bottle top by Mr Gray, who asked him to demonstrate how he had used a similar one to tamper with a ball.

Botham and Lamb are suing Imran over "an offensive personal attack" on them in *India Today* magazine which they say called them racist, uneducated and lacking class and upbringing. Botham alone is suing over a report in *The Sun* which he says accused him of ball-tampering.

Imran, who denies libel, says his words were taken out of context and he was only trying to defend himself. The hearing continues.

Photograph, page 22



Dog the iguana is returned by long arm of the law.

Joy as dog meets Dog

A PET iguana has been found by a police dog six weeks after running away on a Sunday morning stroll with its owner.

Ian Kirkbride had given up hope of ever again seeing his iguana, called Dog. However, it was spotted by a police dog that was being trained by Sergeant Danny Shaw and PC Kenny Cruikshank in the grounds of a vicarage at

Shildon, Co Durham. The dog froze on seeing something in the long grass and the officers, on closer inspection, found the 4th iguana.

Mr Kirkbride said: "He got frightened by a couple of real dogs and ran off. I've been searching high and low for him and was starting to fear he might be dead. I don't normally keep him in a lot, but I will in future."

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Suez anniversary: how Nasser's seizure of canal 40 years ago led to invasion that divided the West

Eden's fatal gamble hastened the end of Empire



Eden: his connivance with France angered Americans

FORTY years ago today Gamal Abdel Nasser, the newly elected President of Egypt — he was the sole candidate — announced the nationalisation of the Suez Canal Company to ecstatic crowds in Manshiya Square in Alexandria.

His action provoked a crisis that lasted for more than three months: destroyed Britain's Prime Minister, bitterly divided its people and all but bankrupted its Exchequer; estranged it from its closest allies; ended any hopes of peaceful co-existence between Israel and its Arab neighbours; set in train the dismemberment of the Empire; and brought the world close to nuclear war.

The canal had been opened in 1869 and, although Britain was a minority shareholder in the operating company, which had its headquarters in Paris, it was by far the

largest user. It was guarded by no fewer than 80,000 troops. But after a Conservative Government returned to power in 1951, the Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, reluctantly acknowledged that the garrison was no longer sustainable and dispatched his Foreign Secretary, Sir Anthony Eden, to Cairo to negotiate a settlement. An amicable agreement was reached and the last British troops duly left the Canal Zone on June 13, 1956.

There was at that point no reason for Nasser to proceed with nationalisation. The canal company's lease was due to expire 12 years later when the whole complex would be restored to Egyptian sovereignty.

But Nasser was regarded by the West with suspicion. To the United States he represented the principal threat to Israel, and the powerful

American Jewish lobby succeeded in portraying Nasser as a fanatic. The French still had their north African colonies, most notably Algeria, and believed Nasser to be the principal supplier of arms to the Algerian rebels.

The arms by 1956 were largely coming from the Soviet Union, which had stepped in to fill the gap left by Britain and the United States. To the Cold War hardliners, in particular John Foster Dulles, the American Secretary of State, it was proof that Egypt was ready to open the door to a communist takeover of the Middle East.

Matters were brought to a head by the Aswan High Dam project on the Nile. Britain and the United States had originally supported the

project but, alarmed by Nasser's perceived flirtation with the Russians, Eden and Dulles changed their tune. They informed Egypt on July 19, 1956, that neither country would continue to do so.

On September 10 Dulles proposed the creation of a Suez Canal Users' Association, pledged to safeguard the passage of the 800,000 barrels of Middle East oil a day needed by western Europe. On October 22 the French and Israeli leaders met in great secrecy at Sévres, outside Paris, where they were joined by Selwyn Lloyd, the Foreign Secretary, and Patrick Dean, chairman of the joint intelligence committee set up to undermine Nasser. It was there that the final plot was hatched: that Israeli

forces should move through Sinai to occupy the Canal, and that British and French troops should subsequently intervene on the pretext of keeping the peace.

On October 30 the Israeli Army advanced on Sinai and paratroops dropped within 25 miles of the canal. The following day Britain and France issued an ultimatum to Egypt which expired at midnight. Egyptian airfields were heavily bombed and aircraft destroyed.

An appalled Eisenhower was reported to have exclaimed: "Bombs, by God. What does Anthony think he's doing? Why is he doing this to me? We have to stop them fast."

The United Nations General Assembly was hastily convened on November 4 and accepted a proposal by Lester Pearson, the Canadian Foreign Minister, to send in

an international peacekeeping force, the first of its kind. While huge crowds demonstrated in Trafalgar Square against the invasion, British and French paratroops landed in the Canal Zone. Seaborne forces landed next day.

Within 24 hours they were forced into a ceasefire. Eden talked bleakly of a divided country, ministerial resignations and pressures from the United States. Britain's gold and dollar reserves were almost exhausted. "We can't go on," Eden told a furious Guy Mollet, the French Prime Minister.

Egypt could now bask in world sympathy and new offers of friendship. For the Empire it was the beginning of the end — but not quite. With a certain irony, among the first UN troops to arrive on their peacekeeping mission were the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

Career sacrificed by the minister who refused to lie

ON THE last day of October 1956, Anthony Nutting, Minister of State at the Foreign Office and a protégé of the Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Eden, resigned his post. His letter said that he could not defend the Government's position in Parliament or at the United Nations.

Shortly afterwards, faced with the fury of his local party at Melton, Leicestershire, which accused him of betrayal, he resigned from Parliament too. A political career of the highest promise was finished.

Eleven years later Sir Anthony Nutting told his story in his book *No End of a Lesson*. At the time of his resignation he had decided that it was impossible to make a personal statement in Parliament because that would have betrayed the Government's duplicity.

He says now: "I waited until everyone who had told lies was out of office and, in most cases, out of politics. I am probably the only minister ever to have resigned on a



Nutting today: said

matter of principle without making a statement. I made several drafts, but in the end I decided I couldn't tell the Commons what had really happened."

Today, aged 76, tall and courteous, he divides his time between his house in west London and a farm in northern Scotland. He is, he muses, the last survivor of the small group of ministers who were privy to the Suez plot: "Anthony [Eden], Selwyn [Lloyd], Harold [Macmillan], Rab [Butler]; they're all dead."

Nutting was present at the fateful meeting at Chequers on

October 14, 1956, between Eden, Albert Gazier, deputising for the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Maurice Challe, France's Deputy Chief of Staff. "It became obvious that the French and the Israelis had been in cahoots for some time."

"Anthony sensed that they had something very important to say. Guy Millard from the Foreign Office was taking a note, as any good diplomat should. Eden told him to put his pen down."

"They came clean. What would we say if the Israelis were to attack Egypt and we were to send in paratroops to protect the canal against this act of war? You could see Anthony's reaction. The whole climate changed. This was the opportunity he had been waiting for."

From then on Nutting believed his position was untenable. "My problem was that I could not defend the policy because I was not prepared to tell lies to the House of Commons and to the UN. I went to see Walter Monckton [later Lord Monckton of Brechley, then recently resigned as Defence Secretary and serving in the Cabinet as Paymaster-General], who I knew was sympathetic to me and antithetical to the Government. Walter said to me: 'You are the deputy Foreign Secretary, and your job is to defend the Government's action. Can you do it?' I said no. 'Then, in that case, you must go,' he said."

Nutting was shocked and outraged at Eden's collusion with France and Israel. "Anthony was almost, if not



Nasser was acclaimed in Cairo after nationalising the canal 40 years ago today

completely, as Arabist as the Foreign Office. His sympathies had always been with the Arabs rather than Israel." Indeed, in 1954, Eden had negotiated the British withdrawal from the canal base and had withstood the subsequent challenge from the Suez Group in the Commons, led by Julian Amery, who accused him of appeasement.

After agreement had been reached on troop withdrawals, Nutting was asked by Eden to stay on in Cairo and talk to Nasser. "He told me to ask him what he really wanted and to find out what made him tick. Nasser said to me, 'I will

give you a shopping list of arms, and we can take it from there.' But all we did was supply him with some clapped-out old bombers. It was Nasser's refusal to supply a *casus belli* that increasingly frustrated Eden. 'Anthony had had a bad winter. He was very hurt by an article in the *Telegraph* which accused him of vacillation. He was compared unfavourably with Churchill, and he wanted a war so as to assure Winston's mantle. But it just didn't fit.'

Eden had earlier been quick to assume that General Sir John Glubb's abrupt dismissal

from command of the Arab Legion in Jordan early in 1956 had been inspired by Nasser. "I spent many a night trying to convince him that Nasser had nothing to wish it," Nutting says.

"He kept screaming at me that I was in love with Nasser and couldn't see any fault in him. I left almost in despair. From then on it was no good appealing to him as the great diplomatist. He wanted to be Churchill with a moustache."

How does Nutting feel 40 years on? "Sad, of course. But, as Walter Monckton said, you must do as your conscience tells you."

'Place yourself under arrest and go to the Tower'

IN SEPTEMBER 1956 the author Michael Holroyd was on leave after completing his National Service officer training at Eaton Hall, Cheshire. He had been commissioned into The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, although his basic training had been with The Royal Green Jackets in Winchester.

One evening in the cinema he saw a newsreel of the Fusiliers embarking in a troopship. "I thought to myself, 'That's funny. Something must be wrong, but what should I do? So feigning innocence, I rang the regimental HQ the next morning to inquire about changing the buttons on my uniform."

"What the hell do you think you're doing? was the reply. 'Why are you still here? Put yourself under arrest and escort yourself to the Tower of London.'

"I was summoned by two senior officers who demanded to know why I had disobeyed a summons to report for active service. I replied that I never received the message but they didn't believe me. I spent the night in the Napoleon Room in the Tower."

"The next day a telegram was found which, in the confusion of the moment, the adjutant had addressed to himself. But that didn't stop them being very angry with me for not checking whether I should report for duty."

"I was sent to Connaught Barracks in Dover, which the regiment had left by then and which was now full of refugees from the Russian invasion of Hungary. Among my duties were to distribute condoms and light bulbs. It was the oddest thing that has ever happened to me."

When the battalion re-

turned from Suez, Holroyd was given the task of organising the welcome ceremony, but admits that it all fell rather flat. The mood in the country was divided and despondent. The weather was wet and windy and only a few people turned out.

"There were seven or eight men wounded, all curiously in the back," he recalls. "It was nothing to do with running away. It seemed that the troops in the frontline trenches got so bored that they occasionally got up to stretch and some over-zealous and frightened chap in the rear would open fire, thinking the enemy was coming. So they were all friendly-fire casualties."

Towards the end of his service Holroyd was given the "giddy rank" of acting unpaid captain and the task of dealing with redundancies among regular officers. "It was given some optimistic name like 'streamlining', but it really was the start of the decline of the old British Army."

Michael Holroyd is the author of several literary biographies including one of George Bernard Shaw

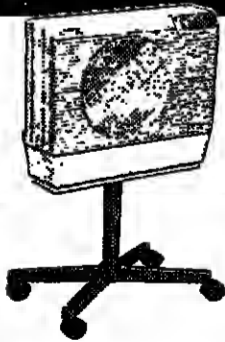


Holroyd: he missed the troopship for Suez

THE TIMETABLE

- July 26: Nasser nationalises the Suez Canal.
- August 8: Eden broadcasts to the nation that Nasser cannot be trusted.
- August 29: British and French troops sail for Cyprus.
- October 22: British and French meet the Israelis in secret near Paris.
- October 29: Israel invades Egypt.
- October 30: Britain and France threaten to invade unless Israel and Egypt withdraw from Canal Zone.
- October 31: British planes bomb Port Said and Cairo.
- November 5: United Nations votes for peacekeeping force.
- November 6: British and French paratroops seize control of Canal Zone.
- November 8: UN imposes ceasefire.
- November 21: British hand over to UN and start withdrawal.

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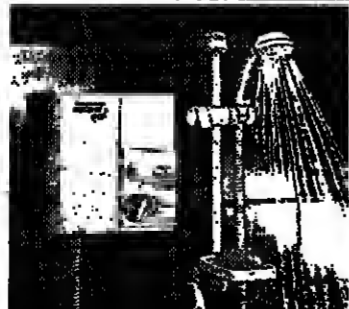
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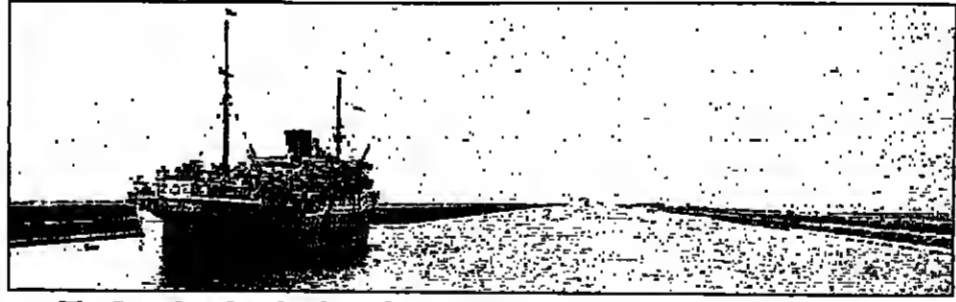


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The Suez Canal at the time of the crisis, with the Egyptian side on the right

All need not have been lost, says opponent of pull-out

IN THE months leading up to the Suez crisis Julian Amery, a 37-year-old backbencher, became the *de facto* organiser of what came to be known as the Suez Group, a small but vociferous group of Tories who bitterly opposed the "sell-out" of the great military base in the Canal Zone.

Able, articulate and well-connected (he was Harold Macmillan's son-in-law), he went on to hold ministerial posts in various Conservative Governments. Baron Amery of Lustleigh, as he is now titled, recalls the momentous events of 40 years ago with a wry detachment.

Of Anthony Nutting, who described the Suez Group as "malignant", Amery said: "I never quite understood him. I don't see why he should have resigned. Nasser was destroying everything he wanted, and we all felt that Nasser had to go. Yes, of course Nasser was popular, but if he was doing something totally contrary to our interests, why should we worry if he was a popular demagogue?"

"I think it would be a great mistake to assume that the Arab world was entirely behind Nasser," he argues. "I had several talks with Nuri [General Nuri Es-Said, the



Amery: says Arabs were not all behind Nasser

pro-British Prime Minister of Iraq, who was assassinated in a coup in 1958], who said we must defeat Nasser. The same was true of Turkey and Iran. "Apart from Nuri, the Hashemites [Jordan and Iraq] weren't all that keen. In fact most of the Arab countries were very uncertain about Nasser. Once the operation went wrong they took a stance. But before that they hesitated to see which way it would go."

Amery says his convictions at the time dated from an earlier stage in Conservative thinking. "The Tory party was bonded to the concept of a united and peaceful Commonwealth. The idea of pull-

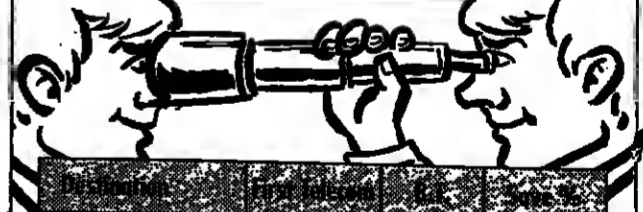
ing out of the Suez base meant the abandonment of that united Commonwealth. We'd given up Palestine, but the Canal Zone was the hub of our imperial power."

But surely there was opposition to the Suez adventure from within the Commonwealth itself? "No, not really, not in their hearts. Australia, New Zealand and South Africa were all on our side, as was Rhodesia, for what it was worth in those days. Canada on the whole sided with the United States, which I found mildly surprising."

"I have little doubt myself that, if we had gone on through the Canal Zone, the Government in Cairo would have made way for a coalition, which would have said, 'Please don't come into Cairo. Let us have a conference to produce a new Canal agreement.' With the moderate elements, we could have started to rebuild the old Anglo-Egyptian accord."

Some months after hostilities ceased Amery went to visit Nasser in Cairo and was received hospitably and without bitterness. "When we parted, he said, 'If you had been Egyptian, you would have been on my side. I think, if I had been British, I would have been on yours.'"

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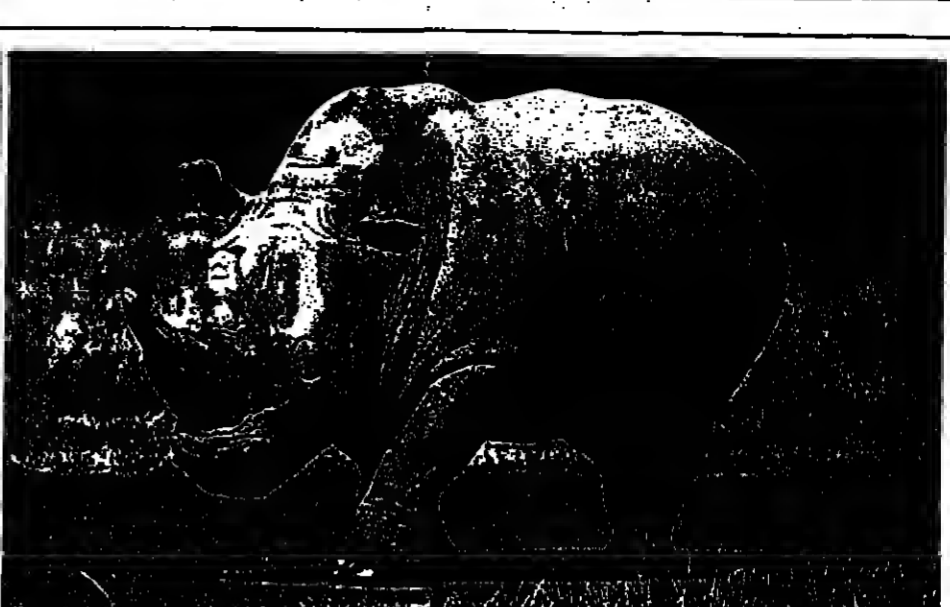
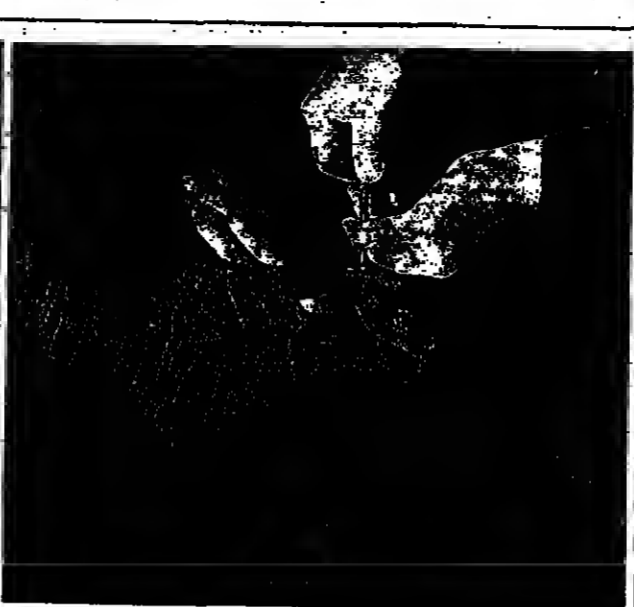
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The rhino lies anaesthetised, left, while the steel plate is fitted to its hoof. After the operation it walked away, safe but groggy

Pedicure helps rhino keep toehold on life

By LIN JENKINS

EXPERTS made a house call yesterday to perform an emergency pedicure. Their 28-year-old client was suffering from a cracked toenail. As she was a female white rhinoceros weighing four tonnes, the equipment included a heavy-duty crane and an artificial nail made of stainless steel. The pioneering treatment was necessary to save the life of Maggot, one of an endangered species, which has

lived at Woburn Safari Park since 1972. An infection in the nail was in danger of travelling further up the leg and becoming untreatable. In the wild, hard-baked earth would keep the nail trim, but the softer and wetter conditions in Britain allowed it to grow and soften. Maggot was anaesthetised while two veterinary surgeons who specialise in treating exotic animals and one of the country's leading farriers cleaned out the infected crack

and knitted the two parts together with a plate. A crane capable of lifting 25 tonnes was on standby in case the rhino fell the wrong way. Afterwards Maggot staggered up and groggily walked off, to the relief of the team. Stuart Elliot, one of the vets, said: "Anaesthetising a creature as big as a rhino is very risky. The animal's body weight can crush internal organs and cut off circulation, causing heart failure." Slim Symonis, who teaches at the

Hereford School of Farriery, said: "I am 90 per cent happy with the work. Time will tell. I would be 100 per cent if it was a horse, but I've never done a rhino before." Nick Whiting, Maggot's keeper for the past 13 years, added: "I am so relieved. I could not sleep worrying about her because there is always a big risk of knocking out large animals like this. She is a smashing-natured animal; I knew she would take it in her stride."

Best maths teaching 'is made in Taiwan'

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

TEACHERS should look to Taiwan for lessons in reversing the decline in ability at mathematics among British pupils, school inspectors said yesterday.

Primary schools should try holding back low-achievers for a year and setting more tests and homework to ensure that all children progressed at a similar pace, said a report on international achievement by Ofsted, the school inspection agency.

Lessons from successful Pacific Rim countries could revitalise mathematics teaching in the same way that Japanese methods helped to save the British car industry, said David Reynolds, co-author of the report, *Worlds Apart*.

The report also said that the most successful European countries, including Germany and Switzerland, used more teaching of whole classes of mixed ability at primary level and, like Taiwan, selection at secondary schools.

A series of surveys showed British pupils falling further behind most of the developed world in mathematics from the 1960s to the 1990s.

Research to be published this year and disclosed earlier this month in *The Times* showed that six years ago English 13-year-olds were 3 per cent above the world average in mathematics. They have fallen to 3 per cent below, answering 53 per cent of questions correctly compared with 79 per cent in first-placed Singapore.

Professor Reynolds, from Newcastle University, said: "The situation is so worrying that the risk involved in look-

ing outward and trying new practices is worth taking.

"There is a large range of achievement in the UK and, although our top end is up there with other countries, we have a huge long tail which many people have said is the great British educational problem."

This tail could be shortened by promoting high-achievers to the year ahead or holding back under-achievers. In Taiwanese primary schools, the same work is set for all children, who are expected to keep up, and the best pupils help to tutor classmates when they have finished their work. Regular testing is used to diagnose problems early and children who have fallen behind catch up at break times and after school.

Professor Reynolds said: "Teachers should realise you can get all children over a hurdle and you do not have to distribute them across a range which has been the historic British practice."

Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said the report was not intended as "teacher-bashing". He added: "This is an attempt to contribute positively to the debate about standards and how they can be raised. We hope there won't be a head-in-the-sand reaction."

The Government's latest education White Paper will make it easier for schools to introduce partial selection. Professor Reynolds said that, conversely, Taiwan was about to begin experimenting with comprehensive secondary schools.

Education, page 39

Women kept out of professorships

By OUR EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

FEWER than one in 12 professors are female, even though women make up a third of university academics, according to a league table compiled by *The Times Higher Education Supplement* and published today.

Helena Kennedy, QC, Chancellor of Oxford Brookes University, said that the figures exposed the shameful myth that higher education was a world of equal opportunity. Oxford Brookes came second in the league table, believed to be the first such survey. The university's 12 women professors make up 26.1 per cent of its total.

Top of the table was South Bank University in London, with 32.6 per cent. The highest pre-1992 university, King's College London, came third on 17.1 per cent.

Cardiff recently appointed 162 professors, of whom 18 were women. It was placed 38th in the league with 5.7 per cent of professorships held by women. Cambridge was in 41st place with 5.5 per cent.

The national average of 7.3 per cent compares with 16 per cent at universities in the United States.

Ms Kennedy, writing in *Beyond the Glass Ceiling*, a book of interviews with successful women academics, said: "There are no job descriptions for professorships, no personnel specifications, no stipulated criteria against which to assess the fitness of the appointee to the post. Accordingly there are no checks against inadvertently biased choices."

Ms Kennedy said that the appointment system had to become as open as the public sector to ensure less discrimination.

A professor at a Welsh higher education college was suspended yesterday over claims that foreign students' degrees were favoured by lenient marking.

Professor Hywel Rees said that he would defend his position after the move by governors at the Swansea Institute of Higher Education.



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Scientists use grey matter to give hope to paralysis victims

By Nick Nuttall
Technology Correspondent

A BREAKTHROUGH in spinal injury research has been made by scientists who have restored movement to the legs of paralysed animals.

The achievement is being hailed a milestone in the quest to find a treatment for people such as Christopher Reeve, the *Superman* actor, who was paralysed in a horse-riding accident. Some 40,000 people in Britain have spinal damage from accident or disease.

The pioneering research, published in *Science*, is by a team at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. The technique hinges on a new way of re-routing severed nerve fibres. Nerves or axons in the spinal cord travel up and down in the outer layer of the cord in the white matter. Previous attempts to reconnect broken nerve fibres directly have failed, and scientists found that the white matter secretes a protein that inhibits

Cancer specialists from the Royal Marsden and St Bartholomew's hospitals in London have challenged promising research findings for marimastat, an anti-cancer drug that has already triggered a stock market boom for its maker, British Biotech. They say in *The Lancet* that the company has misinterpreted initial clinical trials, which were not based on sound evidence.

growth. The Karolinska team have overcome this by linking broken fibres into the central area of grey matter, by-passing the inhibiting protein.

Up to 18 nerve fibres, taken from elsewhere in the body and measuring about half a millimetre in diameter, are used to make the links between the severed nerve endings and the grey matter.

A substance called fibrin glue, similar to the material that causes blood to clot, is

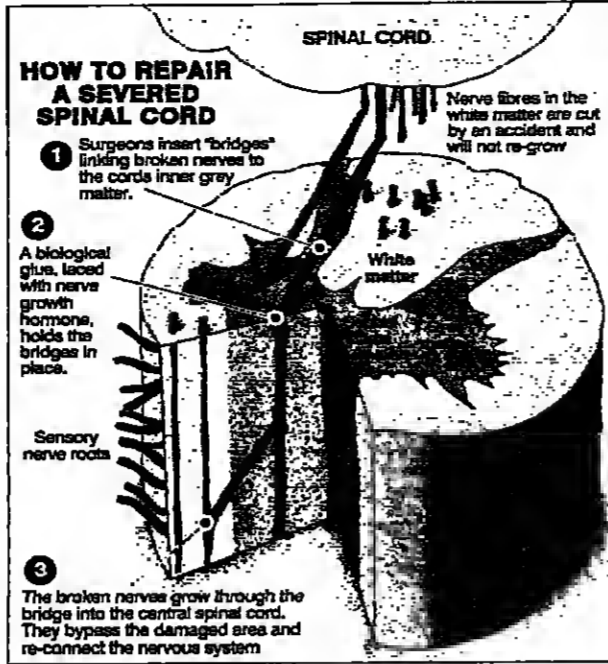
then pumped over the area to hold the bridges between the severed nerve fibres and the grey matter in place. The glue also contains large amounts of a natural chemical that boosts nerve cell growth.

The scientists have found that within days the broken nerve fibres invade the "bridge" and grow into the central spinal cord. Exactly where the new, growing fibres go and how they connect to nerves controlling the leg muscles is uncertain.

So far 22 rats given the new treatment have regained partial movement of their hind legs, whereas rats given only part of the treatment failed to gain any movement.

Professor Wise Young, from the New York University Medical Center, said: "People should not be rushing to their doctors just yet... the treatment is not ready. But this is a breakthrough. The scientists have demonstrated something that was thought to be impossible." He said the research made it possible that a treat-

ment for people with severe spinal injuries might be available in a decade.



The technique that may help those who have been paralysed by spinal injury, such as Christopher Reeve, left



ment for people with severe spinal injuries might be available in a decade.

He added that other exciting implications, which held hope for human spinal injury victims, had emerged. "The nerves were not guided to the grey matter, they found their way to the target on their own. This is very hopeful. It shows that the task of regenerating the spinal cord may be easier than many of us thought."

Although not all of the

severed fibres grew back into the grey matter, all the treated rats showed some recovery. "It shows you do not need to regenerate everything to get back function back. If we have to regenerate the whole spinal cord, we will not succeed in our lifetime. But it could be that we need only to get 5 to 10 per cent of the nerves back."

Professor Young said. British charities welcomed the findings but urged patients to treat them with

caution. Martina Crowley of the Association for Spinal Injury Research, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (Aspire) said yesterday that if the research proves successful it might work only on new spinal injuries, not ones from a few years ago.

"This kind of research is very positive and we all get terribly excited, but it can cause a lot of distress," said Ms Crowley, who is based at the London spinal unit of the

Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital. Stephen Bradshaw of the Spinal Injuries Association said that it appeared to be another "excellent step forward but must not be trumpeted too much".

He feared that the relatives of spinal injury victims might rush out and raise money for an operation that was still probably a long way off. The charity believes this money could be better spent on "living for the here and now".

DOCTORS believe they may have found a new treatment for depression, using magnets. By applying rapid magnetic pulses to the brains of severely depressed patients, researchers succeeded in significantly improving the mood of half of them.

Magnetic pulses to brain lift depression

By Jeremy Laurance

The group of 17 patients were candidates for electroconvulsive therapy (ECT), the shock treatment for severe depression used as a last resort. A magnetic coil shaped like a figure of eight was placed on the scalp in one of three positions. Magnetic pulses were directed at specific areas of the brain in ten-second bursts. Patients received 20 bursts, separated by one minute pauses, each day for five days.

The findings, published in *The Lancet*, show that nine of the 17 patients reported pronounced improvement in mood after stimulation of the region of the brain associated with depression. However, the benefit was short-lived, tapering off after 14 days.

DOCTORS believe they may have found a new treatment for depression, using magnets. By applying rapid magnetic pulses to the brains of severely depressed patients, researchers succeeded in significantly improving the mood of half of them.

Top-quality fish come on stream

WEEKEND SHOPPING

JULY is a good month for fish: quality improves outside the spawning season (Diana Thorp writes). The mild-cured Manx kipper, available only in June and July, makes an excellent breakfast. Wild salmon, believed by many to be superior to its farmed cousin, is delicious now.

Average prices per lb include Dover sole £9, plaice £2, wild salmon £4, sea trout £3. Promotions include: Asda: "healthy choice" pork range reduced by 50p/kg, fresh beef rump steak £7.99/kg, cherry tomatoes 49p/27g, oranges 99p/10-pack, banana and toffee ice-cream cones 99p/4-pack.

Budgens: fresh pork sausages £1.99/kg, Young's peeled prawns £3.99/400g, honeydew melon 79p each, Tropicana original pure orange juice £1.69/l, Ribena £1.49/600ml.

Co-op: fresh turkey breast steaks £3.29/450g, fresh cod fillets £4.99/kg, Pasta Reale tortelloni garlic and herb £1.29/350g, Linda McCartney's Country Pies £1.69 for four.

Harrods: Swiss Bundnerfleisch £4.75/100g, seafood salad £2.69/100g, brie de Nangis £9.74/kg.

Iceland: tikka masala filled chicken £1.49 two portions, Dalpack cauliflower cheese grills 99p/392g, Julienne car-

rots 39p/907g, whole beans 99p/907g, Vanilla brick ice-cream 39p/l.

Marks & Spencer: lamb loin chops 9.99/kg, leg knuckle £4.99/kg, two seasoned chicken breasts £1.99p/325g, cherries £1.99/450g, Bramley apple tart £1.69/510g, all premium ice-cream reduced by 50p.

Safeway: pork and beef sausages 79p/454g, rindless Dutch back bacon unsmoked £3.39, smoked £3.49/600g, medium avocados 29p each, white seedless grapes 99p/lb, red plums 66p/lb.

Sainsbury's: fresh rump steak £7.49/kg, fresh pork bone-in loin chops £5.49/kg, English mild cheddar £3.59/kg, large Angel cake £1.12, loose Jonagold red apples 35p/lb.

Somerfield: fresh beef, top-side, topround, silverside £4.14/kg, pre-sliced Scottish smoked salmon £2.82/200g, continental growing lettuce 89p/twin pack, Walls Blue Ribbon vanilla slice 79p/l.

Tesco: new season half leg of lamb £5.89, rainbow trout fillets 3-6oz £2.99/lb, new potatoes 9p/lb, tiramisu £1.49, strawberries 99p/27g.

Waitrose: Aberdeen Angus beef grillsteaks 99p/340g, Farmhouse ground veal 99p/340g, fresh chicken £5.49/2.5kg, sugar-snap peas £1.29/250g, mangetout £1.29/250g.

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The Times, in association with The Federation of Zoos, gives you the opportunity take a child free when you spend a day at the zoo. There are 41 locations to choose from (a list was published on Saturday and Monday) where you can save up to £6. The offer is valid until August 31, with the exception of Bank Holiday Monday, August 26.

Visiting a zoo today is an exciting experience for a child. They have imaginative ways of introducing children to wild and dangerous animals. At the Lakeland Wildlife Oasis, Cumbria, for instance, they can crawl through a tunnel underneath the meerkats' sand pit to pop up, protected under a perspex dome, to meet the inquisitive creatures face to face. At Edinburgh the penguins stroll around the lawn amongst the visitors. And at Thrigby Hall, near Great Yarmouth, one of the favourite attractions is nearly rubbing noses with an alligator, from the safety of protective glass.

The Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland is a charity which represents the interests of 60 zoological and wildlife collections.

HOW TO APPLY
Collect four differently numbered tokens from The Times, attach them to the voucher (already published) and present it at the zoo's ticket office. You will be entitled to a free child entry when paying one full adult admission. The voucher is valid for one zoo visit.

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July 26 1996

RAF equipment orders will create thousands of jobs

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE three equipment orders for the RAF announced yesterday will create thousands of jobs and provide it with new generation precision weapon systems.

After weeks of Cabinet in-fighting during which it looked as if the orders, worth nearly £4 billion, might be delayed until the autumn, Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, emerged from a Cabinet meeting to announce that British companies had been awarded all three contracts in preference to strong American rivals.

The biggest order was for 21 Nimrod 2000 maritime patrol aircraft, worth about £2 billion, which will be made by British Aerospace in partnership with about 200 other companies, including Rolls-Royce, GEC, Racal, Smiths Industries, Short Brothers of Belfast and the American company Boeing.

Nimrod 2000 will be a refurbished version of the present Nimrod with new wings and new mission systems. The main rival to Nimrod was the American Orion 2000, a new version of the Orion F3, built by Lockheed Martin.

Ministry of Defence officials

said the Nimrod order would sustain 2,600 jobs. However, British Aerospace claimed 10,000 direct and indirect jobs would be either created or sustained, including 5,300 in the North, 850 in the Midlands, 2,250 in the South, 500 in Scotland, 1,200 in Wales and 200 in Northern Ireland.

The Nimrod 2000, which will be capable of long-range, long-lasting anti-submarine patrols as well as search and rescue operations, is due to come into service in 2002.

One of the key last-minute developments that wrapped up the contract for British Aerospace was the decision to include GEC as one of the principal partners. GEC was already due to play a minor role in supplying some of the equipment for Nimrod 2000, such as the towed radar decoy



Storm Shadow, cruise missile for the RAF

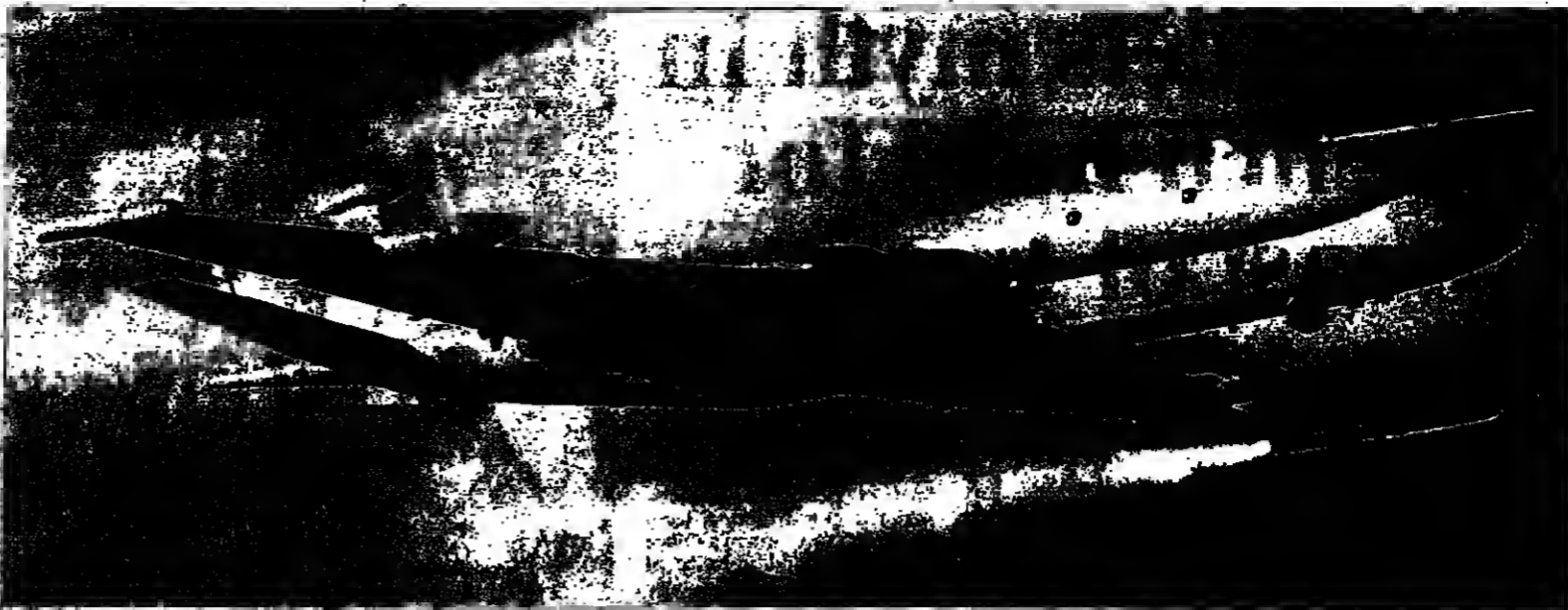
and rear crew training system. However, GEC's main involvement in the maritime patrol aircraft contract was with the rival Orion 2000.

Last week ministers told British Aerospace that GEC must be given a bigger role and after frantic negotiations it was agreed that GEC should team with Boeing in developing the mission system. MoD officials acknowledged yesterday that details of this new partnership had still to be worked out and the contract for the Nimrod order is not expected to be finalised until later this year.

The bigger involvement of GEC in the Nimrod offer finally sunk the rival Lockheed Martin/GEC Marconi proposal. Lockheed sought a 90-day postponement so that it could produce a lower bid but the MoD refused.

The two other orders are for a conventionally armed stand-off missile (Casom), worth £800 million, and an anti-armour weapon system, worth £700 million. Both will be carried by the RAF's Tornado Harriers and the next generation combat aircraft, the Eurofighter 2000.

Again, Mr Portillo chose the British/European option in-



The Nimrod 2000. British Aerospace will build 21 of the maritime patrol aircraft, creating or sustaining up to 10,000 jobs throughout the country

stead of the American one, although, as MoD officials said, all the bids were "international", with each one having overseas companies partnered with British firms.

The Casom order was awarded to British Aerospace Dynamics, which is partnered with the French company Matra. Their missile, Storm Shadow, is a development of Matra's Apache system.

For British Aerospace it was vital to win the Casom contract because it plans to merge its missile business with Matra and the success of this would have been undermined had Mr Portillo chosen an American missile. President Chirac of France has been promoting the Storm Shadow bid - "most recently, it is alleged, in a phone call to John Major" - as a strong supporter

of the British Aerospace/Matra merger.

Storm Shadow will provide the RAF with a cruise missile system which will be launched 200-300 miles from the target and be capable of destroying a hardened bunker. The need for such a weapon was one of the main lessons learnt from the Gulf War. The development of Storm Shadow, which will be in service in 2001, will create at least 1,600 jobs in Scotland and England.

The anti-armour weapon will be the Brimstone system developed by GEC Marconi Dynamics and based on the American Hellfire weapon. Brimstone will also be in service by 2001 and the contract will sustain about 700 jobs throughout the country.

Leading article, page 19

Bae suppliers are jubilant

By OLIVER AUGUST

THE "ripple down" effect of the RAF equipment orders will benefit entire communities surrounding defence contractors.

British Aerospace in Warton, where parts of the Nimrod aircraft will be built, is a perfect example. Defence contractors at the Consortium of Lancashire Aerospace, which comprises 100 local BAE suppliers, were in a jubilant mood yesterday.

One of its members, Steve Hollis, the managing director of Cleveland-Guest, was confident that the contracts awarded to BAE will swell employment throughout the

county, which is one of Britain's major aerospace centres.

"It's a feature of the aerospace industry that it has so many sub-tiers," he said. "We were part of a bid team for one of the missiles. Unfortunately we didn't get it but we are glad about the BAE contract because as suppliers it will benefit us indirectly."

Once Mr Hollis has exchanged contracts with BAE for the Nimrod project, he will sub-contract the painting and surface work on his machines, creating yet more jobs. The same pattern is repeated

across Britain. The Tory MP Phil Gallie, in whose Ayr constituency BAE-Prestwick is located, said that yesterday's announcement was good news not only for workers at the facility but also for many small businesses in Ayrshire.

But Chris Tolago of Racal, which will build the radar for Nimrod 2000, gave warning that the job creation would not be instantaneous. "The negotiations with suppliers haven't started yet because the guys who won the contract have been in the pub since the MoD made the announcement."

Portillo can celebrate — his successor will pick up the bill

Michael Portillo was entitled to look delighted outside 10 Downing Street yesterday as he announced three big defence orders. Thanks to Michael Heseltine and the pressures of pre-election politics, he was able to see off the Treasury's desire to delay the announcement of the orders. Hence, he was able to please the Armed Forces, the sizeable defence lobby on the Tory benches, and the arms procurement industry. But Mr Portillo will not be Defence Secretary when the bills have to be paid and the contradictions between defence

commitments and resources have to be sorted out. The story is not nearly as simple as it appears. What was not said is as significant as what was said. The key, as always, is money. Going back over a century, the Treasury has always argued that that savings can be found from the defence budget. Since the end of the Cold War, it has kept up the pressure on the Ministry of Defence, as reflected in the *Options for Change* exercise and the commitment to switch resources from support to combat activities in *Front Line First*. Last November, defence

spending was cut by £500 million below previous plans for this financial year and by £400 million for next year. This has already produced serious strains, particularly as a result of the Bosnia commitment, even after taking account of the controversial sale of married quarters. The Defence Committee warned in its report on the estimates on Wednesday against any further reductions. The Treasury has been keen to

take another look at the defence budget and has therefore been very wary of deciding on new orders. Kenneth Clarke wanted the orders to be considered as part of the annual Cabinet review of spending plans so that no announcements should be made now. Mr Portillo argued for an early decision. In particular, the announcement of the order for Storm Shadow missiles should cement the recently announced merger of the missile businesses of British Aerospace and Matra of France. In an uneasy echo of the arguments

over a European or American future for Westland helicopters in early 1996, Mr Heseltine seems to have been particularly influenced by the case that announcing the orders now could assist the restructuring of the European arms industry. His intervention late on Wednesday forced Mr Clarke to accept that the orders would have to be made now, rather than later. However, Mr Portillo has not won the increase in his budget that he wanted to finance the orders. Indeed, the Treasury insists that the Cabinet has accepted that defence spending should be no

higher for the next few years than was announced in last November's Budget. In that sense, yesterday's announcement is a battle deferred. Of course, relatively little will be spent on the orders in the short term and the cost will be stretched out over several years. But, as the Defence Committee made clear, there is already no room for manoeuvre in the defence budget. What the Government has done, as so often in the past, is to announce big job-saving defence orders before an election and leave until later awkward questions of how they will be financed. Questions about how to reconcile Tory ambitions to "enhance the fighting strength of the Armed Forces" and to contain public spending have been deferred. Whoever is Defence Secretary in a year will have a hard time from the Treasury, whoever is Chancellor. David Clark, Shadow Defence Secretary, will be well aware how Gordon Brown further strengthened his control and power base in yesterday's Shadow Cabinet reshuffle. The defence world should celebrate while it can. It will not last.

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Fact meets myth in French hunt for Beast of Larzac

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN LARZAC

IN A scene straight out of French rural history, hundreds of men carrying staves, knives and guns assembled on a plateau in southern France this week to hunt a wolf, the most feared animal in the nation's folklore.

The Beast of Larzac, the wild and mountainous region in the Massif Central, has killed more than 60 sheep since May, spreading fear among the locals and reviving myths that are deeply embedded in the collective memory. Some say there is not a lone wolf but a pack, others that the beast is a feral canine hybrid. Several of the grizzled farmers who gathered at the military base south of Millau this week reported seeing their quarry loping across the land or hearing it howl at night.

Veterinary experts who examined dead sheep confirm that a wolf is to blame — either one that escaped from a nature park or an animal raised as a domestic pet and then released into the wild in a region which relies on sheep-



A European wolf

rearing to produce Roquefort cheese.

Wolves are officially extinct in France but this month, after repeated attempts to trap the animal failed, the Minister for the Environment granted a special dispensation to allow a full-scale wolf hunt for the first time this century.

As Captain Philippe Durand of the gendarmerie marshalled his hunters early on Wednesday, the odds appeared to be heavily stacked against the beast. The wolf found a defender in Brigitte Bardot, the former actress and

animal welfare campaigner, who offered a £1,300 reward if it was captured unharmed. But ranged against the animal were some 300 heavily armed farmers, policemen, soldiers, national guardsmen, a team from the Government's Office of Hunting and a brace of firemen.

"Today's objectives are clear: at best we must capture the beast, at worst it must be destroyed," declared the captain, resplendent in khaki battle dress and a blue képi. The Office of Hunting provided special wolf-capturing equipment including a padded body-suit with gloves and mask, tranquilliser darts and a lasso.

Captain Durand's tactics were simple: to mount a sort of pheasant drive with teeth, in which beaters carrying staves would advance in formation through the undergrowth and try to force the wolf towards the line of waiting gunmen.

"This is a dangerous animal, but it will attack out of fear rather than aggression,"



French hunters on the plateau of Larzac, in the Massif Central, prepare to track down a wolf blamed for the death of more than 60 sheep

the captain told the beaters, mostly young soldiers wearing green fatigues and red T-shirts who did seem overly reassured by the advice as they plunged into the tangled brush.

Robert Calazel, a bearded, strapping figure who might have emerged from an 18th-century woodcut depicting peasant life, has lost several sheep to the wolf of Larzac.

"This time we will get him," he observed grimly. That view was not borne out by ensuing events. A group of beaters went astray in the undergrowth and nearly blundered into the firing line.

As the temperature on the plateau rose from hot to roasting, disputes erupted between the various services involved, and the captain wilted under his képi. Jokes about

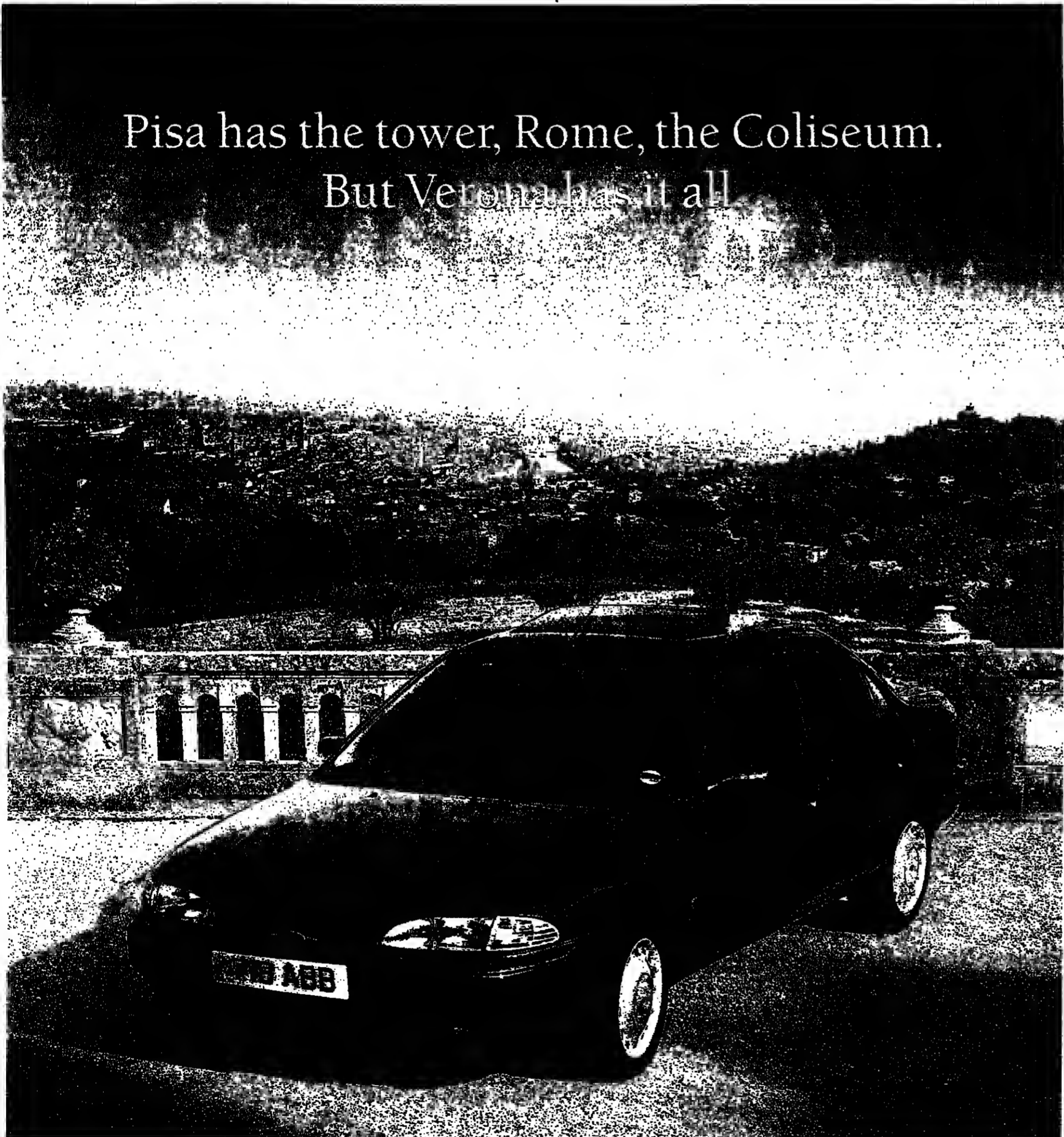
Mme Bardot became increasingly off-colour. The firemen sloped off for lunch. "Wolf-hunting doesn't appear in the training manuals," muttered Under-Prefect Jean-Yves Cbiaro, overseeing the operation.

A rumour went round that a "shot" had been fired. But this turned out to be a soldier whacking his staff against a tree. The wolf was spotted to

the south, before transforming into a wild boar. By nightfall, the hunters had slogged through some ten square miles of rocks and brush, without a single sighting of the predator. As they trudged back to their cars, one whiskered veteran remarked: "You have to have special eyesight to spot a wolf, sometimes it is just a shadow. They are the devil's creatures."

Such thoughts are an atavistic throwback to a harsher time when man battled the wolf for survival through harsh winters and drought-stricken summers.

For centuries wolves, both real and imaginary, have run through the core of French rural mythology and, like the shadowy beast preying on the sheep of Larzac, they are running still.



Pisa has the tower, Rome, the Coliseum.
But Verona has it all.

£16m plan for tunnel to Paris fountains

BY BEN MACINTYRE

TWO French entrepreneurs have developed plans for a pedestrian tunnel under the Place de la Concorde in Paris as a showcase for art and fashion that would also enable visitors to appreciate the fountains in the middle of the traffic-choked square without danger to life and limb.

Ten million tourists visit the Concorde every year, but to get to the central island's obelisk and fountains — the main one was completed in 1840 — they must first run the gauntlet of motorists who tend to regard zebra crossings merely as decoration.

The proposed tunnel, the brainchild of Eric Naon, an economist, and Marc Pauzié, an art historian, is part of a plan to restore decayed fountains, known as the "Fountains of Seas and Rivers". To negotiate the surrounding sea of traffic, the tunnel would stretch 250 yards from the Tuileries gardens to the Champs-Élysées, with an exit next to the fountains.

Jean-Michel Wilmette, an architect, has produced draft plans for a 30ft-wide tunnel which would double as a subterranean art museum and fashion gallery. The nearby museums holding exhibitions could also show paintings in the tunnel as an aperitif to the main attraction.

Building the tunnel would cost an estimated Fr120 million (£16 million). M Naon and M Pauzié say they hope to raise two thirds of the cash from private companies, including Paris fashion houses which could use the tunnel as an underground display case for haute couture.

André Ghonon, a spokesman for the Paris Mayor's office, told *Liberation* that the idea was innovative, adding: "It is one thing to say it and another to do it."

Next week, a French commercial court will decide the fate of Eurounnel unless the Anglo-French operator of the Channel Tunnel can come to a refinancing agreement with its 25 banks over payments on a £8.4 billion debt.

The Government and French businesses are understandably wary of committing themselves to building any more large tunnels at the moment.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Death at Ukraine reactor

Kiev: Two accidents in three hours have hit one of Ukraine's five nuclear power stations, killing a man, causing contamination and creating fresh worries about safety, ten years after the Chernobyl disaster.

Viktor Stovbun, a senior official at Ukraine's nuclear power authority, Derzhkomatom, said a worker died of burns and other injuries when a pipe carrying steam broke and struck him on Wednesday at the Khmelnytsky station, 180 miles west of Kiev.

Then, leaking water contaminated a nitrogen storage area. The second incident rated one on the zero-to-seven international scale of nuclear "events". The reactor is closed for maintenance. (Reuters)

Refugees 'doped'

Madrid: Spain has deported 103 refugees, mainly Africans, and secretly used a sedative to make them easier to expel in a blatant disregard for human rights, Amnesty International claimed. (AP)

Suspects held

Potsdam: Two more men were arrested in connection with the June 16 attack by suspected neo-Nazis on black Britons, the state attorney's office said. Another man was charged this week. (AP)

Klaus wins vote

Prague: The Czech Republic's new minority Government, led by Vaclav Klaus, won a confidence vote in parliament, ending three weeks' uncertainty and allowing the coalition to launch legislation. (AFP)

Spain pay freeze

Madrid: Government employees' wages will be frozen next year to help to reduce Spain's deficit and meet requirements for joining the European currency, an Economy Ministry official said. (AP)

End of the line

Moscow: Passenger and freight trains on the Trans-Siberian railway, Russia's oldest and longest line, were halted when electricity was cut because of non-payment of £6 million in bills. (AFP)

Princess Caroline wins £78,000 in libel case

FROM MICHAEL KALLENBACH IN BONN

PRINCESS CAROLINE of Monaco won DM180,000 (£78,000) yesterday in a libel action against the German magazine *Bunte*.

Princess Caroline had appealed against a DM30,000 award by a lower court over an "interview" in *Bunte* which told of her "hate of the world and search for happiness". *Bunte* also printed a photograph of her, her son and a friend with the caption, "I have a family once again". Princess Caroline said the article was inaccurate.



Princess Caroline took action against magazine

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'Israel wants to get out of Lebanon provided we could guarantee the security'

Netanyahu offers peace if Hezbollah gives up arms

Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's right-wing Prime Minister, threw down a peace challenge to President Assad of Syria yesterday by offering to pull his occupying troops out of southern Lebanon in exchange for peace along the northern Israeli border, to be guaranteed by the disarmament of Hezbollah (the Party of God).

The far-reaching plan, known as Lebanon First, was first outlined in an interview with *The Times* and later spelt out privately to Dennis Ross, the US peace envoy, who was in Syria this week.

"Both countries have a vested interest in building confidence towards the ultimate resolution of the Syrian-Israeli dispute," Mr Netanyahu told me. "I think Lebanon is a good place to start resolving that dispute."



Israel's Prime Minister is in confident mood despite the bickering within his coalition. Christopher Walker reports from Jerusalem

He emphasised that rather than any specified period of calm in Galilee being necessary to persuade him to pull out the estimated 2,500 Israeli troops, assurance was vital that Hezbollah could no longer attack. "This is a matter not of declarations, but capabilities," he said. "Any settlement must remove the capability of Hezbollah, or at the very least disarm it, as all the other militias in Lebanon have been disarmed."

Sipping iced tea and brimming with assurance despite continued wrangling among religious parties inside his hardline coalition, Israel's youngest Prime Minister also disclosed plans for his first official trip to Europe, in September. The visit takes in France, Germany and probably Britain and Ireland in Ireland's term holding the presidency of the European Union. "Europe will have an important role in creating a different climate in the Middle East towards peace," he said.

Mr Netanyahu acknowledged with a degree of satisfaction that, although his Government had been in office barely 30 days, he had already confounded many of the sceptics who had "demonised" his position and stilled some of the initial panic-stricken reaction in the Arab world, which was convinced that his narrow

defeat of Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, would return the region to conflict. "Every time I meet foreign leaders, they are sort of taken by surprise that I mean what I say. And once they understand that, they usually feel a sense of relief that there is actually going to be genuine progress, albeit careful and guarded, which is what I was elected to do," the Likud leader said. "It is not a tactic. It is the substance of our position."

The 46-year-old Prime Minister described for the first time the importance of his meeting in Cairo last week with President Mubarak, whose warmth surprised even Egyptian officials. "It was important because it served to acquaint us with each other, and even more importantly it brought home the message that what we seek is genuine progress based on reciprocity," he said. "And that reciprocity is not a trick to stall progress, but a method to achieve it."

Mr Netanyahu had harsh words for those on the Right, including senior members of his own party, who have criticised his decision this week to sanction the start of

ministerial-level talks with the Palestinian leader, Yassir Arafat, who met David Levy, the Foreign Minister, in Gaza on Tuesday. "I find both on the Right and on the Left, there is this inability to take our words at face value," Mr Netanyahu complained. "It is assumed that always, somewhere, there is a trick. We were not elected to stop the peace process, we were elected to improve it: to negotiate better, to insist on security, to build a more solid framework of relationships than just empty declarations of peace that do not materialise themselves in practical life."

"We want a peace without buses exploding, and we mean that. We expect the Palestinian side to fulfil their obligations on security. They did not in the past, but I think there is a better chance they will do it now."

He acknowledged that mutual distrust between Israel and Syria was high and exacerbated by his Government's refusal to abandon sovereignty over the occupied Golan Heights. He offered the Lebanon First initiative as an important step towards restoring the type of confidence

needed for resolution of the overall dispute. "It was bizarre, he argued forcefully, that President Assad should want him to sit down to negotiate over Golan with the result of the talks already a foregone conclusion. "The whole point of negotiations is about how to resolve competing views, and not to pre-determine the outcome."

It remains to be seen whether Syria genuinely wants us to withdraw from Lebanon (where Syria has 40,000 occupying troops). If it does, I do not see a particular problem to facilitate it," Mr Netanyahu said, speaking of the Israeli-occupied buffer zone that has been in existence since 1985.

He added, in what diplomatic observers later described as an unexpected ray of hope in what had seemed a bleak future for any impending resumption of stalled Israeli-Syrian negotiations: "It is perfectly possible to arrive at an understanding [about occupied southern Lebanon]. Syria and Lebanon say they want Israel out of Lebanon. Israel wants to get out of Lebanon provided we could guarantee the security of our northern settlements."

Pressed on details of the scheme, which would be popular with an Israeli public anxious about the continuing loss of life among its young soldiers in Lebanon, Mr Netanyahu responded: "If the threat against our northern border were removed, we have absolutely no reason to be in Lebanon. We do not covet an inch of Lebanese territory, we do not have any aspirations regarding Lebanon, we have only one desire — that is, to safeguard our security."

Looking remarkably relaxed despite the early criticism heaped on him and more particularly his third wife Sara, by left-of-centre Israeli media, Mr Netanyahu spoke proudly of the skill with which his wife had so far performed her public functions. He brushed off the furore over "Nannygate", which has already subsided. It was noticeable that his otherwise austere



Binyamin Netanyahu: "Foreign leaders usually feel a sense of relief that there is going to be progress"

office was dominated by smiling family portraits. "They talked of a honeymoon period, 100 days of grace. I will settle for just one day," he joked, claiming — a fact confirmed by aides — that he remains thick-skinned as far as press comment goes.

"I glance at the papers myself. No one offers me a digested version," the Prime Minister said. "I would not be in this position if I took to heart everything that is said about me. I would have melted away long ago."

I left reflecting on the conclusion which was reached this week by one of the top columnists in Israel, Yoel Marcus, in *Haaretz*. "Not everyone knows Netanyahu, and no one knows what he is made of — but one thing is certain: he did not do what he did, did not win his victory, did not achieve his post, to blow his career and lead the State towards hell."

Leader rejects blame for assassination of Rabin

By Christopher Walker

FOR THE first time since taking office, Binyamin Netanyahu spoke passionately about Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister gunned down by a right-wing extremist. "Rabin's assassination was one of the great tragedies of modern Israel, and one that exposed a fault line that runs through our society," said Mr Netanyahu, who was elected to the premiership in May by a narrow majority.

"The crossing of that line was a tremendous trauma which was immediately and instinctively healed by the coalescing of all parts of Israeli society against this outrage."

The Prime Minister, whose own personal security is now

probably more rigorous than that surrounding any world leader, passionately criticised those on the Left who had tried to apportion blame for the killing on the Right as a whole, rather than on the "mad, solitary figure" who did the shooting.

"The attempt to lay the blame on the opposition like me did not find an echo throughout broad segments of society. In fact, it was a very dangerous precedent because it said you cannot disagree, you cannot argue vehemently in case some madman may share your views and may act," Mr Netanyahu said in a reference to his attacks on Rabin's peace policies while in opposition.

Mr Netanyahu argued that the critics had failed dangerously to distinguish between the views of the gunman, 25, and his "savage" actions on the night of November 4 last year.

"This attempt to use the assassination to delegitimise half of Israeli society was a very dangerous precedent," he said. "It was the mirror image of the assassination itself. Israeli society showed itself quite mature, it shunned the assassination and equally shunned the attempt to delegitimise the opposition because of it."

According to many left-wingers, the assassination of Rabin has been largely forgotten in official circles.



Netanyahu with wife Sara and son Yair, four

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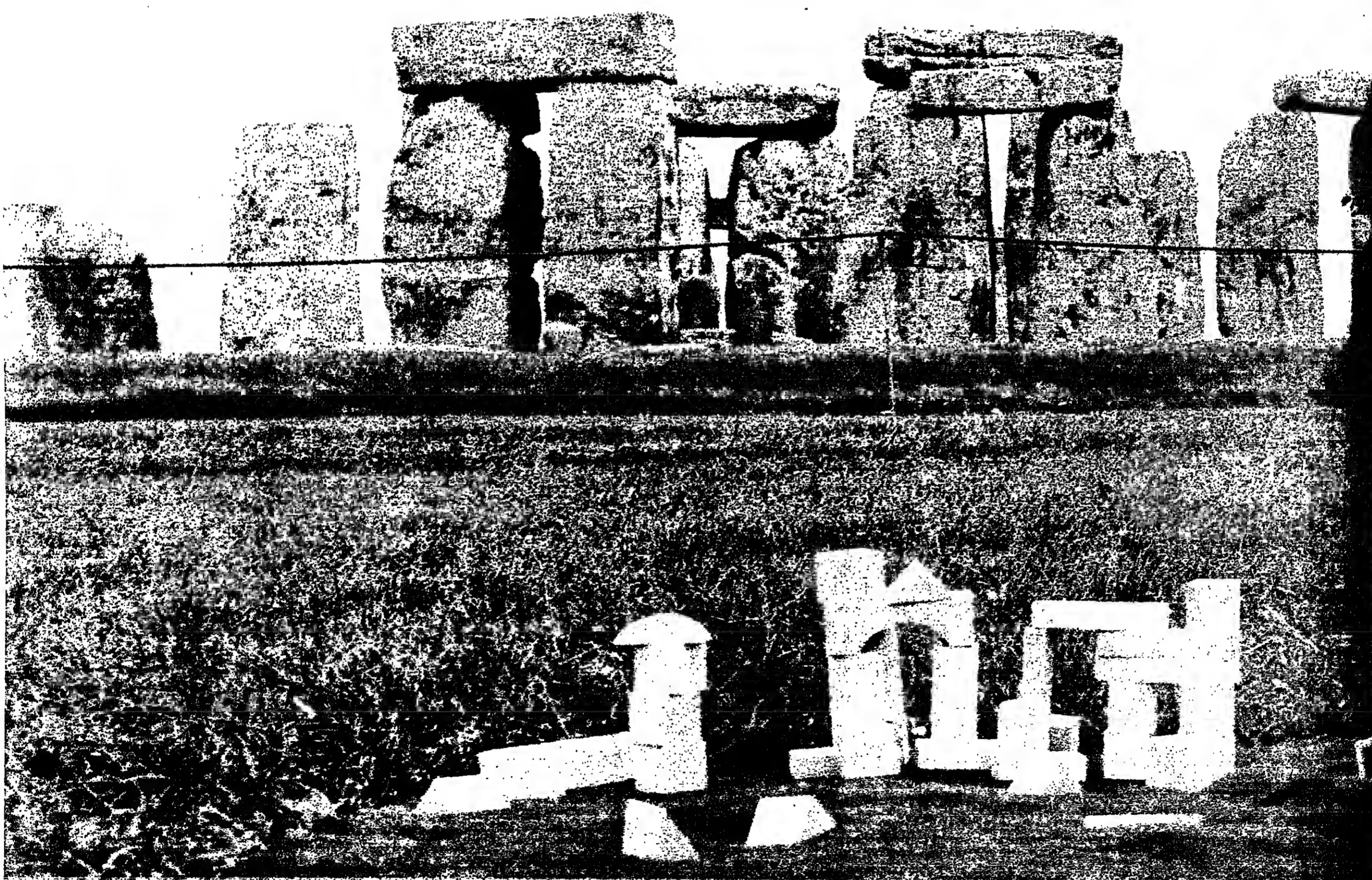
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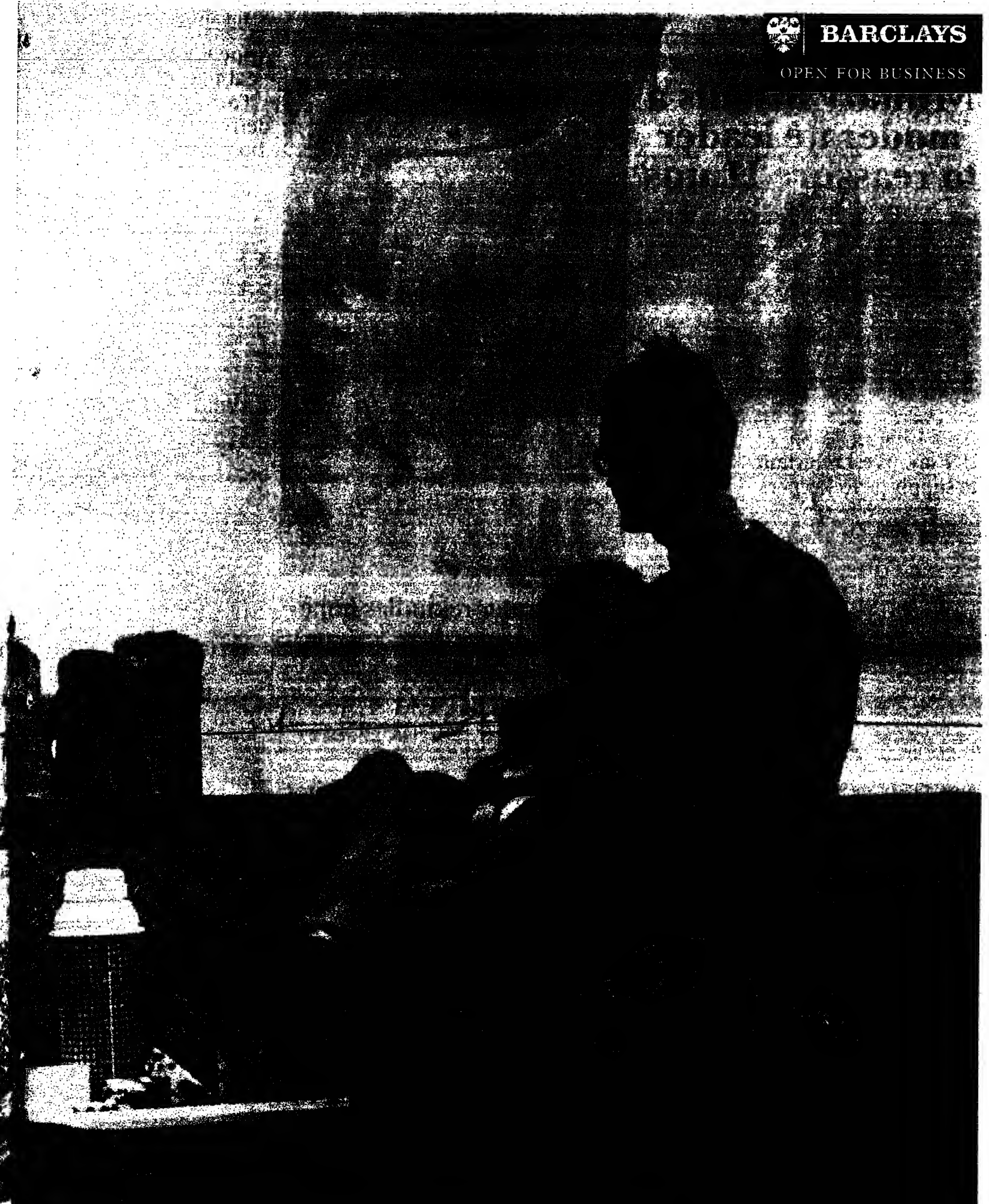
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Burundian capital under siege as resistance to coup builds up

Military installs a moderate leader to reassure Hutus

FROM SAM KILEY IN BUJUMBURA AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE Burundian Army yesterday deposed the Hutu President and announced the installation of Pierre Buyoya, a moderate Tutsi, as transitional head of state, in what appeared to have been a bloodless coup.

Colonel Firmin Sinzoyiheba, the Defence Minister, announced that Mr Buyoya, an ex-President who quit after losing elections to a Hutu rival in 1993, would take over the former Belgian colony until elections could be held.

However, the United Nations said yesterday its special representative had reported that Hutu extremists had decided to retaliate against the Tutsi-led coup by laying siege to the two largest cities, Chinamoya Gharokhan, a senior UN official, said that the National Council for the Defence of Democracy, the Hutu

opposition movement, had launched a raid in the south of the country and planned to besiege Bujumbura and Gitega, the second city. He said that the capital had been cut off with "roadblocks all over the place".

He added: "Apparently, their tactic is to starve these two cities into submission and thereby affect the situation in the country as a whole." Marc Faguy, the UN representative, had met President Ntibantunganya, the deposed leader, in his refuge at the American Ambassador's residence. He said that Mr Ntibantunganya had no intention of resigning. Nineteen other Hutu ministers, including General Bakeyimusaya, the Foreign Secretary, were in hiding at the home of the German Ambassador. Colonel Sinzoyiheba banned all

political parties and dissolved the national assembly, but the task of bringing frightened Hutus into the political process now falls to the transitional President. Mr Ntibantunganya was told in radio broadcasts that it was safe for him to return home, but one of the ministers in hiding said: "They will be waiting to slaughter us."

By late yesterday afternoon, Bujumbura was silent after the army issued orders to all civilians to get off the streets, moments after Hutu traders in the central market were targeted in a grenade attack. Hutus, who have been forced to live in the forests on the hills surrounding the capital since last year, scuttled back to safety, leaving the city in the hands of the Tutsi minority. The army closed Burundi's borders and airports, and all routes leading out of the capital, cut international telephone links, and imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew.

The appointment of Mr Buyoya, a former major who took power in a coup in 1989, was clearly an attempt to appoint a Tutsi head of state who would be acceptable to the Hutus, who make up 85 per cent of the population. His credibility stems from his acceptance of the election of Melchior Ndadaye, who was murdered in a failed coup three months into his tenure.

But 5,000 Tutsi youths yesterday paraded through the capital shouting anti-Buyoya slogans, angry at the appointment of a man they see as having sold out to Hutus bent on annihilating Tutsis.

Salim Ahmed Salim, the Organisation of African Unity's Secretary-General, issued an unusually belligerent statement before the coup, saying that any attempt to take power illegally would be met by force. But the quiet appointment of Mr Buyoya may allow the OAU to avoid sending peacekeepers to a country where 150,000 have died in violence since 1993.



Pierre Buyoya, a former President, is the new man at the helm in Burundi

Tutsi ruler rekindles hope

BY MARK HUBARD

THE military coup which brought Pierre Buyoya, Burundi's former military President, back to power in the strife-torn Central African country is the most promising sign in a bleak picture.

While reports portray him as a Tutsi "strongman", he is far from being so. The military regime Major Buyoya ran between 1987 and 1993 marked a watershed in Bu-

randian politics, by first overthrowing the radical Tutsi dictator, Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, in 1987, and opening up the field to multiparty democracy seven years later.

Major Buyoya held elections in 1993 knowing his Uprona Party, which draws its main support from the minority Tutsis, would lose because of the tribal make-up of the political parties. But, rare among military leaders, he accepted defeat by the

country's first Hutu President, Melchior Ndadaye, and retired to a modest villa on the edge of Bujumbura.

Yesterday's coup, in the absence of any rapid decisions with regard to foreign intervention in Burundi, is the best thing that could have happened in the circumstances. What is now required is time for the new regime to prove that national unity and peace really can be achieved. Few believe it can.

Appeal for calm as Tamils deny train bombing

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DEHIWALA

THE Sri Lankan Government urged the nation to be calm yesterday after a calamitous week of killings that could threaten a Sinhalese backlash against the Tamil minority.

The death toll from Wednesday's bomb attack on a packed commuter train near Colombo, the capital, rose to more than 70 — most of them young, including some children.

The Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), denied responsibility. In a statement from its London office, it accused the Government of trying to whip up anti-Tamil emotions by blaming them. "It is not the policy of the LTTE to attack civilian targets," it said.

Police and forensic scientists continued to pick through the twisted metal of the train for clues last night. Belongings were scattered around two shattered carriages and torn, bloodstained clothes of the dead and injured littered the platform of Dehiwala station, seven miles south of Colombo, and along the grass bank beside the track. Last night the Government announced compensation of 10,000 rupees (£125) to the families of those killed.

In a nationwide address, President Kumaratunga appealed to people not to "fall prey to the scheming tactics" of the Tigers, whose aim, she said, was to provoke an ethnic backlash.

Rebels accused: The Tigers inflict a huge amount of suffering on Tamil civilians, according to a group of moderate Tamil university teachers who have been forced into hiding for fear of reprisals from the guerrillas (Eve-Ann Prentice writes).

In a damning report, University Teachers for Human Rights says that Tamil civilians are coerced into paying the Tigers money that they cannot afford, and that children are lured away from schools against their parents' wishes, to fight.



Kumaratunga: warning against backlash

NEWS IN BRIEF

Death toll rises to six in Turkish jail fast

Istanbul: Three more hunger strikers died yesterday in Turkish jails, bringing the toll this week to six (Andrew Finkel writes). Nearly 300 prisoners were refusing all nourishment last night as the ten-week protest over prison conditions worsened.

Sevket Kazan, Turkey's Minister of Justice, said the Government had made concessions. He said many prisoners now had weapons. The hunger-strikers' main demand is that a high-security prison known as "the coffin", in the city of Eskisehir, should be shut down.

In one of his first acts as a new minister this month, Mr Kazan suspended the transfer of prisoners to Eskisehir. He has refused, however, to close the jail, which he describes as "being well above European standards".

Hijacker seized in Algeria

Rabat: Algerian security forces yesterday overpowered an armed hijacker who held 232 passengers hostage for six hours on board an Air Algerie flight at Oran airport in western Algeria (Mark Hubbard writes). State television said nobody was harmed. It is not known if the man was linked to Algeria's Islamic militant movement, which hijacked an Air France plane to Marseilles in 1994.

Mass grave find

Lisbon: A mine-clearing team in Kwanda, northern Angola, has exhumed hundreds of skeletons, many with bullet holes, from a mass grave at a former army camp, according to reports. (AP)

Biko rejection

Johannesburg: South Africa's Constitutional Court rejected an attempt by the family of Steve Biko, the murdered anti-apartheid activist, to prevent his killers being pardoned if they confess. (Reuters)

Harsh penalty

Tehran: Thieves in Iran will lose four fingers on their right hand for a first offence under the country's new penal code. Repeat offenders face the amputation of toes or the death penalty. (AFP)

Breaking in

Copenhagen: A jailed Danish motorbike gang leader is recovering in hospital after unidentified attackers shot him in his cell after breaking into a jail, then escaping after throwing a grenade. (Reuters)

UN says West reluctant to supply peacekeepers

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations is struggling to assemble a 20,000-strong multinational force to establish buffer zones and "safe areas" in Burundi if genocide breaks out.

Senior UN officials complain that the main Western countries able to mount large-scale military intervention have shown no political will to provide troops. So far only six African countries — Chad, Ethiopia, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia — have said they will risk their soldiers to prevent an ethnic bloodbath between Burundi's rival Tutsi and Hutu tribes.

"We have to move very quickly before everything blows up in our faces," said Kofi Annan, head of UN peacekeeping. "As it is, history will judge us rather severely for Rwanda. What we need is the political will to act."

said last year that the Great Lakes region, which saw about one million people killed in Rwanda in 1994, was teetering on the edge of a new genocide. Officials have been trying since March to put together an international force to head off new massacres.

Of 87 countries approached for troops, however, only 17 responded and five of the responses were negative. No major Western nation offered troops, although some, like Britain and the United States, promised logistical support.

"The nations that have the armies, the rapid-reaction capability, the logistics, are First World democracies and their national interest is not at stake in Africa," said one senior UN official.

"This is a situation where you have to go in in combat mode, and that means you are running risks."

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Opposition unites to force out Bhutto

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

THE Government of Benazir Bhutto faces the most serious threat yet to its survival as an alliance of 15 leading opposition political parties prepares to launch a nationwide movement against the 33-month-old administration.

The alliance led by the former Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, said yesterday that it would use all means to oust the Government and strive for fresh elections under a neutral caretaker administration. The opposition leaders, who met in Islamabad, called on President Leghari to fulfil his constitutional obligation and dismiss what they described as a corrupt and inept Government.


Significantly, the opposition move has come at a time when Pakistan is experiencing its worst recession for two decades and the country's economic life has been crippled by a series of strikes by traders, industrialists and transporters over the past four weeks. The imposition of £800 million in additional taxes last month has triggered widespread public outrage and worsened an already volatile political situation. Three people were killed and several were wounded when the police opened fire at an anti-tax demonstration in Rawalpindi last month. Mass protests have also gripped other main cities.

The newly formed opposition alliance hopes to exploit the increasing public discontent to strike at the beleaguered Government.

High taxes are not likely to extricate the country from its worst financial crisis and most economists predict economic collapse by September or October, when Pakistan is required to pay more than £300 million in foreign debt servicing. The situation seems to have worsened because the International Monetary Fund is reluctant to come to Pakistan's aid.

The deteriorating law and order situation has added to Miss Bhutto's predicament. A series of bomb explosions, which rocked the country's biggest province of Punjab and killed more than 80 people since the beginning of the year, has shaken the Government.

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Breakthrough as divers salvage data recorders

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AN investigation into the crash of TWA Flight 800 was close to a breakthrough last night as experts in Washington examined the aircraft's "black boxes", which were finally recovered by divers 100ft down off the coast of Long Island yesterday.

The flight data and cockpit voice recorders are seen as the best hope yet in solving the mystery of last week's crash in which all 230 passengers and crew were killed.

The crash appeared to have ripped the end of the dented and scratched data recorder,

exposing a handful of torn and dangling wires. "There was moderate damage, but we've seen much worse than this," said Dr Bernard Leeb of the National Transportation Safety Board. "The tapes are being dried in our laboratories and are in good condition. We hope to have some information by the end of the day."

The voice recorder, designed to preserve up to 30 minutes of cockpit conversation, may indicate whether the crew knew of any problem before tragedy struck. For its part, the data recorder is

designed to log altitude, speed and engine information for up to 25 hours and could reveal the presence of a mechanical failure.

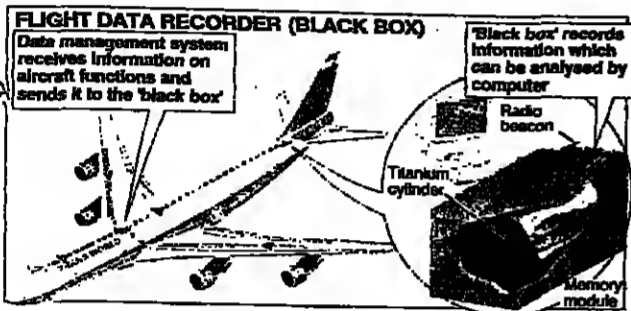
Investigators in Washington were cautious about what would be found. In the final analysis, they said, the two bright red cases may hold less than one second's worth of data.

The early failure of the aircraft's transponder, an automatic radio transmitter that broadcasts its identity, airspeed and position, combined with the lack of a mayday distress signal from the pilots, led aviation experts to believe that the explosion, whatever its cause, may have resulted in total electrical failure on board.

The boxes, about the size of a car battery, use slightly more electricity than a standard portable computer. Later models have small capacitors which can keep them running briefly after an accident, but those on Flight 800 are thought to have been older and did not include the power storage units.

Capacitors are mandatory in Europe and the Federal Aviation Administration has been considering the same rule in America. Had the TWA boxes included the unit, recording time could have been extended by about one-fifth of a second. In the case of a bomb, or a missile, the value of this fleeting extra moment is thought to be negligible in establishing cause. If the crash was caused by mechanical failure, however, every slim piece of information might count.

The Boeing 747 that crashed was originally equipped with a flight data recorder that captured only five channels, each concentrating on one of the aircraft's vital measurements from speed and altitude to heading and vertical acceleration. A 17-channel system was installed later on Flight 800 and, although the FAA is proposing that all aircraft now upgrade to between 24 and 44 channels, the recorders have proved almost entirely reliable on jumbo jets.



Pilotless subs and sonar prove worth

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE recovery of the "black boxes" of TWA Flight 800 is the result of a high-tech search in the waters off Long Island using such sophisticated equipment as pilotless submarines and an experimental body-locating laser.

The USS Oak Hill, a multi-purpose amphibious US Navy vessel with a flooded welldeck and two helicopters that can ferry wreckage to shore, has taken up position as the on-scene command post.

Side-scanning sonar towed by two other ships — the *Pirouette* and the *Rude* — is being used to map the debris on the seabed, and the USS *Grasp* is anchored directly over the centre of the wreckage. The *Grasp* uses remote-operated vehicles with video cameras and sonar to locate

pieces of the airliner and then sends "hard-hat" divers, supplied with air through a pipe from the surface, down to investigate.

It was a small submarine and divers from the *Grasp*, a US Navy recovery ship, that finally retrieved the jet's flight data and cockpit voice recorders. The *Grasp* also has two cranes, each capable of lifting 75 tonnes, for the recovery of large chunks of wreckage from the seabed.

With as many as 120 divers working in shifts around the clock, officials describe the week-long salvage operation as a well-oiled machine. The divers, who carry hand-held sonars and video cameras, face twisted metal and trails of electrical wire from the airliner. Visibility is about 15 ft.

The divers have also been equipped with an experimental laser able to locate bodies.



Flight 800's "black boxes" are laid out for inspection at the National Transportation Safety Board in Washington

Cockpit tape could hold bomb clue

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT AIR CORRESPONDENT

A MILLISECOND of sound on the tape of the cockpit voice recorder could be enough to establish whether TWA Flight 800 was brought down by a bomb.

Before the power was cut, investigators hope, there could be sufficient information to enable them to obtain some indication of what happened in the last few seconds before the passengers and crew of the Boeing 747-100 were killed.

The "black boxes" are actually bright red so that they can be picked out in wreckage after a crash. The idea of recording automatically all the main movements of an aircraft from its height and speed to the engine power and the

position of the control surfaces was developed in Britain in the late 1950s by an electronics expert, Kenneth Dobson, and first displayed at the Farnborough air show in 1961.

It is now compulsory for all large commercial aircraft to carry such recorders. They are made of titanium which surrounds mineral wool and cork packing designed to protect the mass of computer chips which monitor what is happening throughout the aircraft's vital parts and then record it onto wire or magnetic tape.

However, Tooy Skinner, a former air accident investigator, said last night that he did not think the flight data recorder (FDR) would reveal much. "All it will show is that at a certain moment all

electrical power was cut, either by an explosion or by an explosive decompression on board."

But the second "black box", the cockpit voice recorder, which is stored alongside the FDR in the tail of the aircraft, is more likely to provide a clue to the cause of the crash. This has four channels which record what the crew says to air traffic controllers on the ground and, more important, all the sounds in the aircraft, including the cockpit.

If this detected the first shock waves of a bomb blast, the trace will be compared with the "signatures" on the tape taken from the PanAm Boeing 747 which was blown up over Lockerbie in December 1988 and the Air India passenger aircraft which crashed off Ireland in 1985.

Clinton visits grieving relatives

BY TOM RHODES

PRESIDENT CLINTON, visiting the mourning families of those who died on TWA Flight 800, announced new airline security measures last night.

Emphasising that sabotage had not been identified as the cause of the crash, the White House said Mr Clinton would appoint Vice-President Al Gore to head a commission to draw up proposals within 45 days.

The measures would include the screening of all luggage on domestic flights within America and the expanded use of the CTX 5000 bomb-detection scanner now being tested at Atlanta and San Francisco airports.

With a white ribbon of remembrance on his lapel, Mr Clinton travelled by motorcade from Kennedy airport to the Ramada Plaza Hotel for a private meeting with the relatives. His message was reassurance that the Government was doing everything in its power to find all the bodies and an explanation of the crash.

The decision to fly to New York en route to the Olympic Games in Atlanta ended days of debate among senior members of the Administration as to how Mr Clinton personally should respond to the tragedy.

Earlier this week Mr Clinton, for instance, had declined an invitation to the memorial in Pennsylvania for 16 members of a high-school French class who had died. It was a deliberate move by the White House to both avoid diverting attention from the investigation and also prevent any possible criticism.

Paris: President Chirac sent a Cabinet minister to New York yesterday to comfort the families of victims of last week's TWA disaster amid mounting anger among French relatives at the slow recovery of the bodies.

Anne-Marie Idrac, Secretary of State for Transport, was to meet families of the 48 French citizens who died in the explosion. The relatives are staying at an airport hotel waiting to take home the bodies of their loved ones.

The minister would also due to meet American officials in charge of the investigation into the crash. (Reuters)

Doctor 'gave lover HIV shot'

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A DOCTOR, fearing the end of a decade-long affair with a nurse, has been charged with trying to kill the woman by injecting her with a "vitamin shot" that contained HIV-tainted blood from a dying Aids patient.

Dr Richard Schmidt, 48, from Lafayette, Louisiana, succeeded in infecting his mistress, 33, the prosecutor says. A father of two, described by his wife as a "good man", Dr Schmidt is being held without bail for attempted murder. The prosecutor wants to try him for murder, but cannot do so because his victim has not yet died.

Dr Schmidt's lawyer insists that his client's former mistress is "out to try and ruin his life with this charge". But the prosecutor says the woman was lying in bed on the night of August 4, 1994, when Dr Schmidt entered the darkened room and said he wanted to give her a shot of Vitamin B12 for her fatigue. He allegedly injected her despite her refusal.

The couple never had sex again and, about two months later, the woman began to complain of trouble with her lymph nodes and pain in her eyes. Last December the woman was diagnosed as HIV-positive. DNA tests on the virus allegedly matched those of a sample of infected blood taken from a dying Aids patient by Dr Schmidt on the day of the "vitamin" injection.



Hang-gliding: bidding for gold at Sydney Games

Gliders hover over Olympic heights

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS IN ATLANTA

WITH snooker now being spoken of as a possible Olympic sport, other activities are pushing for inclusion in the Games, ranging from surfing to karate, lawn bowls and roller skating.

Juan Samaranch, head of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), was reported yesterday to be keen on snooker and pushing for its inclusion in the 2004 Olympics. The IOC will meet at the end of the Atlanta Games to consider which new sports, if any, can be welcomed into the Olympic family. Sydney, site of the 2000 Games, has already made arrangements to accommodate the triathlon and the oriental sport of taekwon-do.

The US Amateur Confederation of Roller Skating said: "We are keeping our fingers crossed." The US Squash Racquets Association is lobbying in Atlanta to be allowed to play in future Olympiads and the ruling organisations

of ballroom dancing and hang-gliding have said they want to be allowed in.

To qualify, an activity must be played in at least 75 countries on four continents. The Atlanta Games have seen the successful introduction of beach volleyball — the sport has been fast and good to watch.

Sydney intends to limit the Games to 10,000 athletes, 1,000 fewer than Atlanta, in the belief that the Olympics are becoming unwieldy. Mr Samaranch likes to say that "the bus is full — someone will have to get off before someone else gets on".

A Sydney spokesman said yesterday that the city is near to some "terrifically tall cliffs which would be well suited to hang-gliding".

In view of all this, cricket, dropped in 1900, may feel that it is time to return to the Olympic stage.

Reports, pages 39-42, 44

Bronze means happy

BY QUENTIN LETTIS

OLYMPIC bronze medallists are likely to be happier than winners of silver medals, psychologists claimed yesterday.

A study of the reactions of bronze and silver medallists suggested that whereas silver medallists feel a sense of despair at having just missed the top place, bronze medallists are delighted to be part of the medal awards ceremony, feel less pressure of failure and reflect that it is far better to have come third than unrewarded fourth.

Victoria Husted Medvec, a business psychologist at Northwestern University, said: "We examined film footage of the Barcelona Games and studied the reactions of 41 athletes on the stands during the medal ceremony and during interviews afterwards. The silver medallists were significantly less happy than the people who won bronze."

The film footage was assessed by a scientifically controlled range of viewers who marked the reactions of the athletes on a scale of one to ten. The bronze winners waved their medals and smiled. Silver winners were more likely to look exhausted and depressed.

The Graeco-Roman wrestling this week presented an example of an inconsolable silver medallist. Matt Ghafari of the US, who lost the super heavyweight final narrowly to Russia's Aleksandr Karelin, broke down on the medal podium.

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How gay men were "cured"

Brutal methods were once used by hospitals to treat homosexuals, reports Jeremy Laurence

Many brutal treatments have been administered in the name of psychiatry but few are as nasty as that meted out to Peter Price, now a Liverpool radio presenter. Thirty years ago, as a young man, Mr Price underwent aversion therapy to "cure" him of his homosexuality. His mother had wanted more than anything to have grand-children and he felt he had let her down.

Mr Price, whose story is told in a BBC TV programme next month, sought help from his GP who referred him to Devo psychiatric hospital in Chester. He still has nightmares about the three days he spent there in 1963.

As male homosexual activity was still illegal at the time, the reason for Peter's admission was kept secret and he was put in a ward with manic depressives. "We had people screaming in the night, people chattering and laughing. It was like a horror movie."

The next day he was taken to a windowless room and told to get into bed. He was given a stack of male erotica magazines and a bottle of Guinness, his favourite drink.

A short while later, three staff came into the room and gave him an injection. Soon after he vomited. He asked for a bowl but was told just to lie in the bed. The sickness lasted an hour and then he was given another injection and the vomiting would start again.

"They wouldn't let me go to the toilet so you can imagine what it was like. I didn't sleep, I was in a terrible state. I couldn't think straight. After 72 hours I said 'Hey I want out. If this is supposed to make me better I don't want to be better.'"

He phoned a friend and, despite the pleadings of staff to persist with the treatment, persuaded him to pick him up.

"We went back to his house where I got cleaned up, then we went to bed. I think it was my way of telling them where to go. Far from curing me, the treatment confirmed more than anything else that I was gay."

Until 1973, homosexuality was classified as a psychiatric disorder and aversion therapy was frequently used to try to turn young men's fancy in the direction of the opposite sex. It was a form of conditioning with a crude simplicity: encourage patients to indulge in the unwanted behaviour and then apply unpleasant stimuli, such as nasty injections or electric shocks. Sooner or later, it was believed, the patient would, Pavlov-like, associate the behaviour with the nastiness and avoid it.

For homosexuality, the treatment was a failure, proving that sexual orientation is not a learnt behaviour. Aversion therapy did work, however, in cases of sexual fetishism, a learnt response in which a sexual activity has become linked with an object.

Dr Michael Raymond, the psychiatrist who died last year, pioneered the use of the therapy in the treatment of fetishism and alcoholism in the 1950s and 1960s. In one celebrated case, he treated a young RAF mechanic obsessed with handbags. The sight of a well-stuffed handbag would excite him sexually. The treatment involved shutting him in a room with a collection of handbags and giving him repeated injections of amorphine, a drug which causes vomiting.

After some days, the man finally broke down sobbing and shouted "Take them away." From that moment he lost all interest in them. **Dark Secret: Sexual Aversion. August 5, BBC2.**

Israel's children of hope



The political map of Israel may look like a skin disease — all blotches and pimples encircled in green — but thousands of young Arabs and Jews are learning the art of peaceful coexistence. Cynthia Kee reports

The taxi wound its way down the broad street of the Arab village; on either side, big white houses, newly built with palatial overtones. Overhead, a single canopy, densely blue. At the bottom, a street market. We drew up in our white Mercedes. Outside the open window was a T-shirt stall — brick, plum, mustard, they hung limply on wire hangers as T-shirts do. Ahead, fruit and vegetables glowing like jewels — orange, aubergine, tomato. The driver gestured at a mountain of cauliflowers, creamy faced and staring, eyeless. I could have put out my hand and bought one.

That side, Palestinian police; this side, Israeli," he said. Then he turned round and drove back. This was one of the unsolicited detours made by my driver, Mahommed (there are Christian Arabs too), on our way through the densely populated strip of Israel between the mountains and the Mediterranean. On the political map it looks like a skin disease, all blotches and pim-



How have "God's chosen people" made such enemies of the Arabs who live in their midst and in whose midst they live?

Third World standards their tin and board shacks scattered over a stony hillside were not too bad. But Israel is classified as Europe. For the inhabitants of Kamane the obscenity was the trim Jewish new towns clothing the hilltops next door, paint bright and serviced to the hilt. Of course they feel pushed out; of course they cling to "injustice" and "dispossession" like validating trophies won in an unfair war.

I have always wondered how "God's chosen people" (Spinoza, Freud, Einstein, all those thinkers) could have managed to make such enemies out of the Arabs who live in their midst, and in whose midst they live. Strolling spell-bound through the cool halls of the new Supreme Court in Jerusalem, I experienced a nasty indigestive blip thinking of the noble monuments, donated mostly by international Jewry, all dedicated to the greater glory of Israel and all grounded on the shifting sands of human hate.

But there are exceptions. I went to Israel to look for them, for initiatives in Arab-Jewish coexistence, especially with the young. I found projects, programmes, pressure groups by the hundred and visited a score or more — all run with relish by Israelis who seemed convinced they were living the right life, who could and did change things and who were eager to explain how and why. The way they talked made me wonder if any of it was true. All these coexistence programmes and so many Jews... Where were the Arab co-workers?

On the fourth day, I found one. In Jaffa, that picturesque Mediterranean port which is also the location of some of the roughest stuns in Israel. He was sitting in a quiet room beside a boxful of cassettes. At his feet two rows of children lay on mattresses, each with a Walkman, each listening to a story in Arabic or Hebrew — Jews and Arabs, side by side.

The Jewish Arab Association for the Child and Family, Friendship's Way, was set up in 1983 by a handful of peace activists frustrated by their diet of demos and marches. It

is a long-term, after-school enrichment programme aimed at fostering "mutual respect and understanding" and it works with parents too. The young Arab supervising the rest was a graduate of the programme.

"During the Gulf War," he said, "the children were happy that the Saudis were coming but they also invited Jewish staff to come home and stay with them." He spoke with affection and some pride.

Children by the thousand learn coexistence at Givat Haviva: 1,300 Arabs and Jews paired in the Children Teaching Children programme — 2,000 at a time, face to face on three-day residential workshops, and by the hundred on art and drama courses for young people.

Nearly 50 years old, Givat Haviva is a Peace University and you never know who you're going to come across. A flock of Muslim girls, soft faces smiling within their black veils, on a women's rights course; groups of men in suits strolling under the eucalyptus trees — executives, maybe, learning how to teach business to Arabs in Gaza, or maybe Arab teachers learning about the Holocaust; a knot of lean, elegant Mizrahi (immigrant Jews from Ethiopia) studying democracy; a troop of soldier girls learning conciliation skills. Much of the work at Givat Haviva goes on in homogenous groups. Mixed groups are liable to explode without long and careful preparation. "I can't bear it!" screamed an unprepared visitor (Jewish) to an art exhibition as he fled from the room, hands clutched to his head.

At the school, in Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, the art teacher put her hands to her breast. "These are my lands, my people," she said. I felt acutely uncomfortable. Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, the Peace Oasis, is the most advanced of all coexistence enterprises in Israel. Thirty-six families live there. Arab and Jewish, coming together purposely to practise coexistence and to teach it both to children in the school and to hundreds of young people and adults who take courses there. The art teacher was telling me what anguish the celebration of Israeli Independence Day causes her. Lulled by the tranquillity and purposefulness of the place, I had forgotten what powerful emotions might need to be managed in order to live there peacefully. With some relief, I left her office.

Bright-eyed and bold children closed round me. They tried spelling my name on the board in Hebrew, Arabic and English. I tried guessing which of them was which but I never got it right.

The school at Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, unique in Israel, has been recognised by the Government since 1993. This is important as a precedent as well as financially. It is just such initiatives that are likely to be clobbered by the Netanyahu Government whose retinue of absolutist parties are for an exclusively Jewish state.

"Peace process" seems to me a phrase for now far distanced from the painstaking humanisation of stereotypes from which stable peace could grow; a game for politicians in which throwing a six means "handshake on the White House lawn".

"No! He Arab. Me Jew..." said a pair of giggling nine-year-olds at Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam. They put their arms round one another and ran off shouting.

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David Heathcoat-Amory: "If a single currency is held to be a such a good idea, I want them to tell me why."

They didn't think I would do it

Paymaster General David Heathcoat-Amory explains why he was certain he had to resign

It is day one of David Heathcoat-Amory's new-found freedom. The plus is that he can linger over his breakfast merrily and say what he really thinks about Europe. The minus is that Cyril the chauffeur, "the best in the world", no longer waits at the door of his Holland Park house.

On cue, the doorbells ring and Cyril — already re-allocated to Jeremy Hanley. He has come to deliver the contents of the ex-minister's desk, to take away the last red box, and to ask could they please have Mr Heathcoat-Amory's key to the ministerial loo?

This symbolic exchange over, Mr Heathcoat-Amory sinks his long lean frame into a sofa, a man more famous out of office than he ever was in it. Last week, so little was known about him that people could neither spell or pronounce his name (it's *Heathco*). Now he has had his first experience of evading the hack pack by sprinting out of a back door, and a taxi-driver has finally recognised him.

In a room papered in William Morris willow, Florence, seven, plays with Norwich terrier puppy Pippin. Two teenage sons are in bed. The handsome house formerly belonged to the artist Howard Hodgkin, so Mrs Heathcoat-Amory, aka the artist Linda Adams, paints in Hodgkin's attic studio.

It is perplexing that someone with Heathcoat-Amory's Establishment background, his unreluctant nature, a man born to the Whips' office, should have become at this crucial juncture one of Mr Major's "bastards". "Not a very obvious career move," he says drily.

His bachelor uncle Derick was Macmillan's Chancellor, an austere man who remains a hero to some for reducing the duty on cigarettes and beer. David recalls a journalist once telephoning his uncle at home on Boxing Day, which seemed, in the 1950s, "quite an event". The family fortune derives from a Victorian Liberal MP, John Heathcoat, of Nottinghamshire who invented a lace-making machine

and was obliged by Luddites to move to Devon. David's mother, Sonia, married two Heathcoat-Amory cousins in succession: so David, whose father is a retired brigadier, has two older half-siblings who are also his second cousins, and a younger sister who was formerly married to Michael Cookerell, maker of mischievous political documentaries.

He was a fearless captain of boxing at Eton and a boxing blue during his carefree sporting years at Christ Church, Oxford, where he read PPE and became president of the Conservative Association, pro-Europe, pro-Ted Heath. He met Bill Clinton, and was in Grosvenor Square for the anti-Vietnam demo (just to observe; he did not inhale). Afterwards he travelled round the world, ending up in Vietnam with a correspondent's accreditation fixed by Jonathan Aitken. Having qualified as a chartered accountant, he joined a Lloyd's syndicate — resigning, just too late, in 1989. "I am nothing like as badly hit as many others, and it's a loss I can sustain."

The shooting lodge at Glenferriet, for 100 years his family's Perthshire estate, is mostly let. "Land ownership is like being a pensioner in a large house; you have this enormous asset, but no cash." The grouse are scarce but the trout are plentiful until Max Hastings arrives among this summer's guests.

From this background, it is incongruous to imagine him, now congenitally established in Wells, ever contesting Brent South (Paul Boateng's rock-solid Labour seat). It is equally

incongruous to recall that he was Deputy Chief Whip at the time of the Maastricht Bill, though already a closet Eurosceptic. "But I thought we ought to make a go of it and God, I tried. I've done my bit for Europe, frankly."

He hoped subsidiarity might help. "But like all half-formed federations, the central government exercises more and more power, and it's remorseless." When John Major moved him from Foreign Office to Treasury to get the EC Finance Bill through, he found the EU budget "with its colossal waste and inefficiency" unutterably depressing.

Finally, this year he made up his mind to go: a decision he made alone. "I would have liked to discuss it with friends like Michael Howard and Richard Ryder. But I felt with such certainty that I was right. What are politicians for? Why are we here? When something is clearly wrong for this country, we should reject it. I'm not a show-off: some people think it's only extroverts who have certainties, but other people can have self-confidence about their beliefs, and I'm one of them." There was no point in talking to the Chancellor: "One thing I respect about him is he makes up his mind and sticks to it."

He told the Prime Minister on May 16. "No, he was not angry. He is a courteous and considerate man. He asked me to reconsider. But he knows I understand his position, and disagree with it. He pointed out it would cause another parliamentary row, and I agreed it would be difficult and damaging for him, so the least I could do was agree to his timing. I

promised to stay until the reshuffle, and to keep it confidential." But since he was about to publish his arguments in a pamphlet (*A Single European Currency: Why the United Kingdom must say 'No'*, published by the Bruges Group) others inevitably found out. The Chief Whip tried to talk him out of it. "I don't think they really believed I would do it."

The Prime Minister declared on Tuesday that Heathcoat-Amory could have effected change from within. "But I've tried that. I've been a minister eight years. Policy decisions are settled by senior Cabinet members and I had no chance of advancing the arguments I believed in. If politics is a battle of ideas you must put them forward, and I can do that from the back benches, as I could not as a minister. I hope they will read my pamphlet. If a single currency is held to be such a good idea, I want them to tell me why."

They support him in Wells, a Euro-sceptic farming constituency, but he embraces no Euro-sceptic group: "I don't go along with this rather unpleasant undercurrent of fearing German dominance, I'm impressed by modern Germany." He is convinced that our relationship with Europe will change in response to public demand. "We will become the national party; it's only a question of when and how." The Goldsmith factor is "a symptom of what's wrong. Goldsmith has damaging views on trade which I completely disagree with, but people will vote for a fringe party if the Conservative Party doesn't represent their feelings."

He sees the Prime Minister as "boxed in, poor fellow", with his majority of one, and his Chancellor "a drag anchor". "And if that's how it has to be, count me out." When he read yesterday's *Times* interview in which John Major said the Tories can still say no to a single currency, he responded: "Well, that's his story. I might get him through the holidays, but it won't get him through the general election."



Turned off by a summer of ugly feet

THERE is surely nothing on earth more ugly than the human foot, and nothing more calculated to display it to its utmost revoltingness than the miserable sandal. Returning from an otherwise delightful holiday last week, I was overjoyed to find it raining at Heathrow. For

two weeks I had been surrounded by holidaying English feet, gnarled and hairy but besandalled and on shameless show. A winter of corns, dry skin, ingrown nails, blisters and athlete's foot had, apparently, prepared these pedal protruberances for a fortnight of

nudity. And it was vile. To see my jaded co-passengers reach for their luggage and, with muted sighs, root out a pair of Oxfords had me rejoicing at our temperate climate. Imagine, then, my consternation — the upheaval in a stomach that had anticipated 50 foot-free weeks before next

summer's foreign verrucosities, when I learned that sandals were "back". On the catwalks of Milan, men in suits wore sandalled feet. Fashion writers called it "cool" and "sensible". Spread across double pages in magazines was Sir Ramulph Fiennes, our greatest living explorer, holding a hideous two-strapped leather thing and suggesting, albeit obliquely, that it was indispensable to the success of solo missions to the South Pole.

I once had great respect for the man. From now on I shall regard every toe taken from him by frostbite as a blow struck by Nature in the cause of elegance and modesty. Have we not advanced since mighty Rome withdrew

its legions because their sandalled feet could not march in our frozen lands? For women there are python-skin flip-flops by Patrick Cox, white snaffle mules by Office, and sandals in red patent leather by Jimmy Choo. They are worn with nail polish of blue or bubble-gum pink, toe-rings and Elastoplast on blistered heels. How the mystery of woman perishes below the ankles.

And how the dignity of men is compromised by a once-broken big toe, now shorter than its bony neighbour, poking through a thin leather loop. Today they call them Nike Air Royos, Reef-Brazil Mundakas and Teva Terra-dactyls. But they are all sandals, as sad as the now-back-in-favour Scholl, with its stap of sweaty arch on flapping wooden sole.

But then, this is a nation that can eat pink ice lollies called Funny Feet. Feet are not funny at all. I would no more eat a processed cheese called Humorous Burton.

So do not curse the onset of cold weather this autumn. Rather, dream of a winter of boots, brogues and fetid feet shod with respect for social harmony. If ever there were a reason to fight against global warming, this is it.

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Philip Howard



Nothing in the Games is new: not even the cynical press coverage

Coca-Cola is best. Pindar introduced his Olympian Ode with, "Water is the greatest". And he was performing the prizegiving ceremony for Hieron, Tyrant of Syracuse, whose entry "Winner-Bringer" had just won gold in the Olympic Games flat race for horses in 476 BC. But we have improved on all that archaic stuff. So our Olympian Ode in 1996 has to start with Coke, the corporate sponsor of these games. Although the sacred poet (hired hack on his high horse) may understandably prefer Pepsi, without even bringing into contention champagne or Greene King bitter and other more inspirational liquids.

Coca-Cola is best. The sponsors say so, so it must be true. And gold, like fire burning in the night, outshines all possessions that magnify men's pride. But if you want to puff the greatest games, look no farther for any star brighter than the sun, or for any contest greater than Atlanta. And in fact, in spite of the Coke, plus ça change plus this is still the same old Olympics.

For peace sappy "Baron" Pierre de Coubertin and Chorists of Fire, what has always mattered at the Olympics is winning, not taking part. Pindar, their first (Doric) columnist, wrote about the losers "skulking furtively down the back alleys at home, shamed by their loss". But the winner, though a mortal and therefore "a dream of a shadow", bathes in "a ray of sunshine come as a gift from the gods". Or at Atlanta he or she mounts a podium for national anthem, medal and five minutes' television fame. All that matters is being *aristos*, going for gold.

Athletes fuss about their diet. But they always have. This year at Atlanta the Chinese are complaining about their official menu of spare ribs, jumboburgers and Coke. But 25 centuries ago one of the sprinters insisted on training on a diet of figs, because they made him run faster. Beach volleyball is the new sport this year, with maidens in bright raiment throwing a ball at each other, and provoking the newspapers to suggestive puns about Silicone Volley. But there is nothing new under the Olympic sun. Beach ball played by scantily clad maidens may seem new to Atlanta, but it is one of the oldest games. Princess Nausicaea and her maidens were playing it on the beach at Phaeacia when they were interrupted by Odysseus, the first streaker in history.

Our man from *The Times* at the Atlanta Olympics, Quentin Letts, is being given a roasting by the American media for allegedly negative reporting. Instead of praising the winners in the style of Pindar, he and his colleagues have reported the traffic gridlock in downtown Atlanta, the Olympic computer that gurgitates such unimpressive statistics as a heavyweight boxer 6m high, and other cock-up and chaos inevitable at such a crowded and contentious meeting. There is a precedent for shooting the Pindar. In 1861, our special correspondent to Washington, William Howard Russell, made himself so unpopular with Americans by his candid account of the shambles and panic at the Battle of Bull Run that he had to seek sanctuary in the British Embassy.

Once Britain wins a few medals, our hacks will revert from sarcastic to Pindaric mode: "Sons of the golden track in your Nikes, my surest rule is this, when I come to your island to shower you with songs of praise." The modern Olympics may seem to be a contest for chemistry graduates, with steroids running and splashing against cortisone. But the ancient Olympics were also full of cheats. Wrestlers were called lions, from their trick of biting each other when the judges were not looking. When he was Emperor, Nero won more medals than Michelle Smith, even in events which he had not entered. Olympic athletes tripped, tugged each other's shorts (until they were made to run naked in the delusion that this would stop them tugging), took bribes, and were flogged for starting before the flag. There have always been too many silly sports, especially swimming. But when *thunder* wakes the little dog at 3am, it is a comfort to find the younger son watching gymnastics on the television. My boy, do not seek immortal life, but exhaust the realm of the possible. And enjoy Pindar's rapid cutting and brilliant imagery embedded in impenetrable stuff. For remember the roots of the games are very old and very gnarled.



I could murder a burger

Obsessive personalities can be found in every country, but intense Americans take extremes to extremes

In all the world's countries — certainly in all the very many countries I have visited or even heard of — there are people who are significantly different from the rest. Of course there are vast numbers of "differents" everywhere, from those who love broccoli and yogurt to those who shin up drainpipes, climb through windows and steal jewellery. But I am not talking about that kind of difference; I am talking about those who — in the vulgar — are so different that passers-by are tempted to tap their foreheads as they hurry past. And for reasons I cannot fathom, and I think are not fathomable, almost all of these are to be found in the United States.

Do you remember the tragedy of Jim Jones — "Jonestown" — when this savage madman told his followers to drink poison and that they would therefore go to heaven, whereupon they drank it? Do you remember the similar horror at Waco, when another nut and his followers burnt themselves to death? Do you know that there was another of these sieges at Ruby Ridge, Idaho? What inspires American people — and people in significant numbers — to believe that they can be made immortal if they follow an obvious lunatic?

I have recently come back from America, where I found myself watching from the wings another of these self-immolations, though happily this one gave up without bloodshed. Happily, yes, but when I tell you that the group had been holding out for eighty-one days, and every day could have been a massacre, surely you will agree that there is something about the United States which is not to be found elsewhere. (No, I have not forgotten Dunblane, but that was greatly different from the American bloodlettings.)

Mind you, when the men and women of the stand-off had filed out peacefully, there was much more to come, because the filers, it turned out, had filed out with millions of dollars in bogus cheques, and when the judge started proceedings, the filers threatened to kill him. So if you were thinking that the Freeman (that is what they call themselves) should be panned on the head, you should take care that they don't bite you. For those amazing people who held out for 81 days were, in blunt British terms, a pack of more or less dotty libertarian extremists. Outside, the

loonies and semi-loonies were having a high old time: the publisher of the far-right (and how far-right) magazine *Free American* was saying "It's just another small part of how the Government keeps America divided."

Now I started by saying that the United States has peculiar ideas and is not shy of exhibiting them. But that is the terrible side of our friendly cousins. There is, of course, a side to America which exhibits no violence. But I am not just measuring the violent side and the peaceful side. I want to examine another extraordinary facet of the United States. It comes under the heading of intensity.

I and I know no other country that uses enormous intensity not just on its dark side but on the bright side as well. (I once listed countries by the number of murders by handgun a year — the list read: Britain 33; Sweden 36; Switzerland 97; Canada 128; Australia 13; Japan 60, and the United States 13,220. I doubt if there has been any substantial change.)

But return to the matter of intensity. Of course, we would classify murder under the flag of intensity — what else could it be called? But the very strange thing is that American intensity is just as strong when it is contemplating murder as when it is contemplating a McDonald's, and I say that not as a grim gibe. For I shall now put the two together, and tell me whether there is a not a clear and distinct similarity between them. Between the two? Between a passion of men out of control with savage violence and others mildly asking for their fondest but to be improved? Yes, and you might note that each of these two items from the newspapers — the story of the mad savages and the story of the popular comestible — took up the same number of pages: five.

Now for McDonald's and the precious — apparently very precious — bun. I

have to admit immediately that I have never eaten a McDonald's meal, or indeed entered one of its speckless eateries, and this goes for Burger King as well, to say nothing about Wimpy (surely the man who invented it?), but before the McDonald's lawyers — I bet they have thousands and thousands of them — descend upon me, saying that I have said wicked things about their immaculate foodstuff, I must say that I do not propose to say anything at all about the nature or taste or quality of this no doubt delicious sweetmeat. All I propose to do is to discuss the almost incredible lengths that McDonald's will go to to promote a new burger.

I said five pages, and I meant it. True, we are talking about what happens in the United States, but the very new American McDonald's kick-off itself is enough to make your head swim: many ordinary goods and services are helped into the market by a simple giveaway, but what would you say when you discovered (as I did) that as a promotion — promotion! — McDonald's has given away, free, fifty million dollars-worth of burgers?

The new burger (nobody has as yet discussed the possibility of throwing in an ingot of pure gold to go with the burger, but give them time) is called the Arch Deluxe, and although it has gone off pretty well, in the McDonald's boardroom there is apparently a frown or two. Hence the headlines (oh yes, in America burgers are frequently to be found in the headlines) saying "Consumers not exactly flipping for new burger", "Arch may not be much of a triumph" and "No one really knows if this sandwich will have legs".

So, solemnly, McDonald's called up the infantry: the Arch Deluxe has got its polling firm, Louis Harris and Associates, and we now have seen what we have seen. For the pollsters have announced that one quarter of the

American adult population have eaten a McDonald's Arch Deluxe. But that means (because many will have eaten more than one, and very many children have eaten lots and lots) that we must, even more solemnly, say that McDonald's Arch Deluxe has been eaten by not less than 80 million people, and the end is not yet in sight.

Then the figures begin to make me reel: 69 per cent said they might eat another; 90 per cent said they would not go to McDonald's more often just because of the Arch Deluxe; 60 per cent prefer the Big Mac to the Arch Deluxe. And do you remember that incredible figure — fifty million dollars-worth free to promote Arch Deluxe? Well, stop remembering the fifty million dollars, because McDonald's has announced that it is going to spend two hundred million dollars to promote the Arch Deluxe.

And this, dear readers, is nothing but a bun. A bun, moreover, that is not something amazingly new: it is, after all, what oldies like me call a hamburger, viz. chopped steak, a bit of salad and two buns to hold the steak. In even more familiar language, it is a sandwich. I have nothing against a sandwich, but surely nobody would buy one because of its startling newness. Well you and I wouldn't, but 80 million have already done so.

And at last I come round from where I started. Well-cooked steak, I grant you, is hardly a subject to discuss when murder has just been making the running, but please go back to where I started. My theme was intensity, which I think — no, I am sure — is woven into all or most countries, but most deeply and darkly into the fabric of America.

Terrible things happen in almost all countries. But the United States takes the prize. It is not just Waco, Ruby Ridge, Jonestown and the vast numbers more. It is something — as I call it — like intensity. And, as I say, it has also a sunlit side. I repeat: all countries have their eccentricities, even if only in their religion. But the United States, I firmly believe, is absolutely sui generis in this matter. And when you think that the matter in hand includes not only murders, but ghastly multiple murders, surely it is that unique intensity which makes vast pools of blood, and simultaneously makes chopped steak.

Bernard Levin

Extra games

SEXUAL SCANDAL has reared its ugly head to add to the chaos at the Olympics. Apparently unimpressed by the traditional absence of competing athletes, five members of the Armenian weightlifting team were apprehended on Wednesday night after an incident with a prostitute.

The hairy backs were left standing when a lady relieved them of \$100 and sprinted off into the night. Realising that she wasn't coming back, they reacted like grizzlies which had had their bottoms nicked, lumbering off in angry pursuit and ending up eventually at the apartment where she was hiding. "They made such a ruckus when they hammered on the door that a resident phoned the police," said the press chief, adding that they were released.

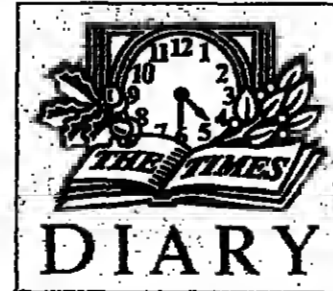
Atlanta's police have also dealt with a Tunisian boxer seized by lust who fondled "inappropriately" a female tram-driver, and a couple of leechers from the Spanish team who decided to relieve them-



It's only a week since we removed her HRF!

written by my friend Dominic Prince, who co-founded the association and sits on its board with the ginger altobross.

I wonder if Dominic, who writes of a disorganised Duchess cracking jokes about her overdraft during board meetings, ever discussed shared experiences with the Duchess — for he, too, has had his toes sucked. In *The Sun* four years ago, under the banner headline "She gave a great toe job", he talked of spending the night on a sofa with David Mellor's former lover, Antonia de Sancha. "Sucking guys" toes was all part of her mucking about. . . She was a delightful eccentric, beautiful."



world, a high-ranking official at London's Liberian Embassy and a concrete bollard.

department announced a new range of Poems on the Underground. One of the poems soon to adorn the trains is called *Apology*, by Mimi Kholerri, while another work has been brought back by popular demand: *Byron's*. So we'll go no more a-roving.

AT THE request of Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, ski-lift partner of the Prince of Wales and according to this week's *Spectator*, an *haut intellectuel*, PHS is eating humble pie. I suggested the other day that, in the battle between her hot pants and her mind, the hot pants win every time.



Hasselhof beach Nietzsche

it is not all her own work but something of a cobbled-together effort. "We've created the Pildown bimbo."

Home rule for the matadors

Magnus Linklater on the bullfights and bombs of Andalusia

Undeterred by ETA bombs, the tourists are packing into the Plaza de Toros in Puerto Banus, just along the coast from Marbella. They have come to see two of the season's more glamorous matadors: Christina Sanchez, Spain's only female bullfighter, and Manuel Diaz, who has adopted the name of the great El Cordobes and claims to be his natural son; he certainly has his good looks, if not all his skill.

Over the next two hours they kill six bulls between them: two of them well and cleanly, four indifferently. The crowd rises to Ms Sanchez as she executes her first *faena* immaculately, then boos and whistles as she struggles to despatch her second bull, lailing time after time to thrust the sword home. Finally, and humbly, a male *torero* finishes the job for her. The general view is that she was unlucky with the animals she faced, but for the more macho Spaniards in the audience, it probably served to confirm their opinion that a woman has no place in the ring. Certainly, for sheer flamboyance, it was El Cordobes who stole the show.

Bullfighting either disgusts or thrills, and often it does both. Those in our party who had never seen a *corrida* before left faintly depressed by an evening which seemed all too often to consist of slaughter by routine rather than ritual. But for the *aficionados*, this most politically incorrect of spectacles continues to exert an electric fascination: both because the death of a human being is always just a hair's breadth away, and because at its best it still has a dramatic intensity unrequited by any other sport. Spaniards who have been gloomily predicting the decline of bullfighting, for years are instead witnessing its revival. Two or three fighters of genius, such as Jesulin de Urbique, are once again drawing the crowds. And in the sierras of Andalusia, where we have been staying, it is so deeply embedded in the culture that to question its legitimacy is to be met with incomprehension.

But if Andalusians see nothing incongruous about celebrating death in the ring, they are nevertheless dismayed by ETA's new campaign of death on the beaches. In the past few weeks, the violence has begun spreading south and has reached the resorts of the Costa del Sol. Despite the arrest of a suspected ETA cell this week, the explosion at Reus may signal an escalation which could strike at the heart of tourism, the only industry of major significance in the area. Memories of the terror campaigns of 1979 and 1980, which led to nearly 200 deaths in Spain, are still fresh, and there is little or no sympathy with Basque separatists who believe that a resumption of violence is the only way of achieving independence.

It is not that Andalusia itself is hostile to autonomy. Like the other provinces of Spain it has adopted devolution with enthusiasm, even though it has no tradition of separate nationhood, and has never been a single entity. Indeed in 1980, when Adolfo Suarez, then Spain's Prime Minister, called a referendum on Andalusia's future and suggested a slow and gradual route towards autonomy, the electorate voted against him. Nearly two-thirds voted for the faster route, turning out in larger numbers than either the Basques or the Catalans. And when, despite this, Suarez used a single poor result in Almeria to reject the vote, there was such fury that new laws had to be introduced to give the Andalusians what they wanted.

Sixteen years on, Andalusia is still struggling economically. It is Spain's poorest province, with an unemployment rate of 28 per cent, and it is beset by corruption. As an industrially deprived area within the EU, it has received large injections of European aid, which have opened up its transport system and helped to develop tourism. It continues to press for a larger share of Spain's wealth, and although it has not yet succeeded, there is little evidence that this has encouraged thoughts of pressing for greater independence. The Nationalist Party has rarely won more than a small percentage of votes. Andalusia remains determinedly socialist.

Parallels with Scotland are hard to resist, and those who cite Catalonia, Spain's wealthiest province, as a model for devolution might find it more instructive to look at Andalusia. However poor it remains, the principle of decentralisation seems as natural as a love of bullfighting.

AS REPORTED elsewhere, we now have an insight into the Duchess of York's behaviour as patron of the Motor Neurone Disease Association. This comes courtesy of an article in *The Spectator*

Devotees of Alexander Pope are hoping that his grotto at Twickenham can be restored. The subterranean hideaway, which was put up for sale by the Sisters of Mercy, has been bought by a school. Pope readers are relieved that property developers have not got their hands on the Thames-side site and Lord Rothschild has been looking at it with a view to his National Heritage Memorial Fund providing cash for restoration.

As the vulgar greed of London Underground's drivers brought London to a filthy standstill yesterday, London Transport's PR

Advance notice reaches me of a fringe meeting to be held at this year's Tory party conference in Bournemouth. A buffet lunch will be served as delegates listen to an address entitled "Obesity: a plague for the 21st century — fat or fiction". The speaker is a Professor Michael Lean.

P.H.S



HOTSPUR'S HOUR

Portillo vs Clarke in the £4 billion defence stakes

The relief written all over Michael Portillo's face yesterday gave the lie to the pretence on all sides that in the battle preceding the award of £4 billion worth of defence contracts, he and Kenneth Clarke had spent the past few weeks merely firming up minor details. The core of the dispute was over the Treasury's determination to exact further cuts in defence as part of its search for across-the-board spending cuts this year.

The Chancellor would not have fought so strenuously to defer the announcement until the autumn had he not hoped that by folding consideration of them into the inter-departmental bargaining of the present public spending round, some orders could be put on indefinite hold and the costs of others heavily pruned.

Both militarily and politically, the Defence Secretary was on solid ground. When deep cuts were imposed on the defence budget two years ago under the Front Line First review, the Government promised the forces a period of stability and pledged that in return for efficiency savings, they would be vastly better equipped. Behind him were the big guns of the British defence industry, together with numerous Tory MPs anxious about factories in their constituencies whose future depended on the decision. The Defence Select Committee, already indignant that last year's defence budget was reduced by more than £600 million after it had been approved, has made the unprecedented threat of refusing to recommend the 1996 White Paper to the House unless ministers rule out further defence cuts.

Yet when the Cabinet postponed its approval of the contracts last Tuesday, the Treasury had all but won. John Major's initial reaction was to tell the two men to sort it out between them — a decision that would have virtually guaranteed postponement. Given the personal and political rivalries between the two ministers, Mr Clarke's sleep will have been little troubled by the

thought that cuts would seriously weaken Mr Portillo's position at Defence, in the Cabinet and in the party.

That would certainly have been the case. Mr Portillo has had some trouble winning the trust of the Services and their stalwart supporters on the Conservative back benches. He has only just emerged from a bruising battle over the privatisation of married quarters. He could ill afford to be publicly forced to retreat. His reputation as a heavy political hitter was on the line.

The decision to go ahead with all three orders not only snatches victory for Mr Portillo from the jaws of defeat, it brings relief to the forces, the defence industry and thousands of defence industry workers. The Government's estimate that 5,000 jobs will be created understates the employment impact; British Aerospace estimates that directly and indirectly, the £2 billion contract to replace the ageing Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft will create or sustain 10,000 jobs. These contracts are also critical to the success of Britain's drive to restore the competitiveness of the European defence industry by greater integration — a strategy which Mr Portillo has vigorously promoted.

The award of a new RAF long-range missile to BAE-Matra means that French assent to a merger of the two companies' missile businesses is now assured — and with it, the way is cleared for their joint bid for the huge French state consortium, Thomson-CSF, soon to be privatised.

Mr Portillo was saved, however, only by the 11th-hour intervention of Michael Heseltine — who in most Cabinet line-ups is not the *deus ex machina* to whom the Defence Secretary would instinctively turn. The determining factor, as it always is with the Deputy Prime Minister, was the political arithmetic of jobs and votes. It is for the other, strategic reasons advanced by Mr Portillo that the Treasury deserved its defeat. But for the Defence Secretary, this crucial victory must be sweet at any price.

NETANYAHU'S OFFER

An Israeli initiative on Lebanon that deserves to prosper

The Middle East is alive with diplomatic activity. After David Levy and Yassir Arafat met on Tuesday, the leader of the Palestine National Authority (PNA) travelled to Damascus for talks with President Assad. Given the minimal contact between Syria and the PLO since 1983, when Mr Assad expelled Mr Arafat and encouraged factional revolt against him, their meeting is striking as the establishment of relations with Likud. Meanwhile, Mr Levy repeated his readiness for direct dialogue with the Syrians. As we report today, Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, has opened a new initiative on the Lebanon.

Perceptions of the new Israeli Government are changing fast. Having been castigated as an implacable opponent of peace, Mr Netanyahu is now being cast in some quarters as barely distinguishable from his predecessor, Shimon Peres. The Prime Minister is entitled to bemusement at these events. As his interview with *The Times* published today makes clear, he believes that he has been consistent. His stand on substantive issues, he credibly claims, is little different to what it was eight weeks ago when elected. If anything, Mr Netanyahu is perhaps concerned that all this reassessment has gone too far. While there are broad areas of agreement between Likud and Labour — on relations with Jordan and the need to work with the PNA — there is also a significant difference.

Mr Netanyahu does not believe in the principle of land-for-peace where Syria is concerned — not while that nation is in the grip of the Assad dictatorship. He does not favour trading the known security of the Golan Heights for the dubious promise of peaceful coexistence. Israel will engage in discussions with Damascus, certainly, but

on the basis of peace-for-peace. Since it is unlikely that Mr Assad will do business on any terms short of total and unconditional control of the Golan, an impasse is likely.

In essence, Mr Netanyahu disputes Mr Assad's contention that no Middle East peace is possible without Syrian blessing. This line has been taken by successive US secretaries of state. It is doubtful whether shuttle diplomacy either by Mr Arafat or the Americans will alter his position. The danger for Israel lies not in what Syria might do directly but by the trouble it can create through its proxies in the Lebanon.

The country is an effective protectorate of Damascus, with 35,000 Syrian troops on its soil. Hezbollah exists, and acts, largely on Mr Assad's say-so. Its resumed attacks on Israeli citizens earlier this year triggered a chain of events that nearly derailed the entire peace process. The distinctly patchy deal that was then supervised by Warren Christopher may not last. If Israel makes advances in talks with other parties, Syria may allow, indeed encourage, Hezbollah to resume rocket attacks in the belief that Israel will be forced to choose between a process that meets Mr Assad's demands or the risk of no peace at all.

Mr Netanyahu is seeking to pre-empt such blackmail with his "Lebanon First" offer, the withdrawal of Israel's occupying troops from southern Lebanon in return for the total disarmament of Hezbollah. It is a bold challenge — to Lebanon and its Western friends as well as Damascus. Every patch of ground gained for peace in the Middle East is precious. Mr Assad should be left in no doubt that this is an offer that Syria cannot sabotage without seriously compromising his claims to be serious about an overall settlement in the Middle East.

SHORT SHRIFT

Opposition spokespersons have to be team players

Like an adolescent staying out ever later at night, Clare Short has been testing the limits of Tony Blair's tolerance. Yesterday she found them. Having achieved the results he wanted in the Shadow Cabinet elections, the Labour leader decided to teach his colleagues a few lessons. Most in need of them was the Shadow Transport Secretary.

With precision timing, Ms Short had stormed out of a television interview the previous day because she was asked a question about the London Underground strike. Ostensibly she was angry because she had been led to believe that the discussion would be about a different railway line. But for the Opposition transport spokeswoman to refuse to answer transport questions on a southeast regional programme the day before a Tube strike beggars belief.

Ms Short is an engaging politician. Her personality is huge, her exuberance infectious. Politicians on both sides of the House like her and so do voters. They appreciate her honesty and enjoy listening to her say the unsayable. But parties are not simply collections of individuals. There is such a thing as collective responsibility, which has to be adhered to if Government and Opposition are to function tolerably well. Ms Short has breached this principle too many times for her to claim that it was

accidental. If Labour is to have a chance of winning the next election, it must be united. This applies particularly to the front bench.

Her disagreement over the Tube strike was much more serious than those on cannabis or tax. Mr Blair and several of his colleagues had quite clearly said that the dispute should go to arbitration. This position had already been agreed in Shadow Cabinet. If new Labour is to stand for anything, it is for putting the interests of the consumer above those of the producer: in this case, backing the passengers not the striking drivers. Ms Short was not just visibly uncomfortable with this position. She could not even bring herself to support it on television. That will not do. If she cannot go along with a party line in Opposition, what will she be like in Government?

Ms Short is clearly furious with the way in which she has been demoted. She argues that because she came third in the Shadow Cabinet poll she deserves a senior job. But those elections, as ever, were rigged. Ms Short adds to the gaiety of British politics. If she could turn her energy to good purpose and learn some self-discipline, she could be a highly effective politician. In the meantime, she will have to content herself with Overseas Development. And there she should be safe: at least in that industry there are no trade unions.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Scrapie and BSE link with humans?

From Dr Helen Grant

Sir, The transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs), including BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy), scrapie, CJD (Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease) and kuru, are caused by a uniquely mysterious infective micro-organism, the "scrapie agent", which is poorly understood by scientists, let alone the general public.

This widespread ignorance has frequently produced misleading public pronouncements, a very common example of which is the statement, made by a member of the committee advising the Government on BSE, Professor Jeff Almond (report, July 23, later editions): "We know that scrapie, which has been around for centuries, poses no risk to humans." We know no such thing. What we know is that scrapie has never been shown to pose a risk to humans, a very different matter.

Before 1986, when our cattle were first infected with the ovine TSE called scrapie, and so developed bovine TSE, scrapie was the only reservoir of the "slow virus" from which humans could conceivably have been infected to develop CJD, the human TSE. The fact that we still lack proof of this route of infection does not exclude its existing.

In the UK it has always been traditional for abattoir workers routinely to leave the brains of sheep inside the skulls so that sheep's brains (unlike cattle brains before 1989) never went into our "meat products" but, remaining inside the skulls, infected our cattle with "BSE" instead. Not so with sheep spinal cords, however, which is why I stated in my evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee on Agriculture in June 1990 that those who always eat the spinal cord fragment out of the lamb chop (and who are genetically susceptible) will develop CJD after the usual long incubation period.

The sheep offal ban proposed by the Farm Commission, Franz Fischler (report, July 24), will result in these fragments of spinal cord, like the brains, being absent from our dinner plates and is entirely to be welcomed.

Yours faithfully,
H. C. GRANT,
10 Antrim Grove, NW3,
July 24.

From Mr Aidan Harrison

Sir, It would be virtually impossible to find any British sheep amongst the millions now being sold for fresh meat which have consumed anything other than their mother's milk and grass.

The "theoretical risk" of BSE in sheep which are fed banned unnatural substances in a laboratory is no more relevant than the potential ill effect on the health of scientists and politicians if they were forced to eat grass.

Yours faithfully,
AIDAN HARRISON,
Morpeeth, Northumberland.

Labour democracy

From Mr Mike Thomas

Sir, Gerald Kaufman's memory is at fault ("Labour's comedy of shadows", July 25). The arrangement whereby members of the Shadow Cabinet are entitled to Cabinet places in the event of a Labour victory was not one of the democratic reforms imposed in the 1980s by the hard Left.

It was the recommendation of a broadly based working party of the Parliamentary Labour Party (of which I was myself a member) in which the Centre and Right had a majority.

It was born of a widespread revulsion in the PLP against the cronyism of Harold Wilson and his "Kitchen Cabinet" in the 1960s and 1970s.

The Centre of the party allied with the Left at this period to reject the proposals which I and others in the PLP (many of whom subsequently left Labour to found the SDP) had made to select MPs and elect the leader by "one member one vote".

The former process now is hailed as the democratic foundation of "new Labour"; the latter is being stumbled towards as the party still struggles to extract itself from the undemocratic nonsense of the electoral college.

The Left did Labour enormous damage during this period but the stubborn resistance to change of the Labour establishment was one of their greatest allies.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE THOMAS
(MP for Newcastle upon Tyne East: Labour, 1974-81; SDP, 1981-83),
Milton Lodge,
Iwer, Buckinghamshire,
July 25.

Stone of Scone

From Mr Peter G. Vasey

Sir, Mr Cowe's suggestion (letter, July 24) that the Stone of Destiny be deposited in Berwick-upon-Tweed is an excellent one — provided that Berwick, too, could be restored to Scotland, as it too was appropriated by Edward I in 1296.

Yours faithfully,
PETER G. VASEY,
78 West Holmes Gardens,
Musselburgh, Lothian,
July 24.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Time to remedy the law's delays

From the Editor of The Western Mail

Sir, Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, is on the point of producing his report on the whole structure and procedure of the civil courts. Such a review will not be before me.

The *Western Mail*, along with three other newspapers, was recently involved in an interlocutory hearing in the Court of Appeal, in which a litigant in person was appealing against a striking-out order from a lower court. The case was listed to last a day.

But the proceedings which followed — with the judges involved appearing to have little concern for the time and cost of the hearing — horrified me. The appeal lasted into a second day which I consider should not have been necessary, and seriously increased the costs.

The case could, in my view, have been kept to one day if the court was set up to work a full business day and kept a focus on its *raison d'être*. But there were lengthy intermissions during the course of the day, and by 4.30pm, when the court rose, we were nowhere near finishing. There was no suggestion that we stay until the early

evening to finalise matters, as would have happened in almost every other aspect of life: the nearest to it was the announcement that we would start early the following day — at 10am! The case eventually finished at 3.15pm on the second day and judgment was reserved.

Surely the courts need to have a much better regard for those involved in cases and the costs they are incurring. They need to be run in as efficient a way as possible — and not in a way that, in my opinion, recalls some of the worst inefficiencies and excesses of British industry in the 1950s and 1960s.

This is said not out of disrespect for the law and the costs they are incurring. Justice is paramount, and of course justice, ultimately, must be seen to be done — but in recognition of the commercial reality of the situation.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL FOWLER, Editor,
The Western Mail,
Thomson House,
Havelock Street, Cardiff,
July 24.

Court rules on naming defendants

From Mr D. J. Cassell

Sir, Editors of all sections of the media are giving encouragement, inadvertently, to those who would seek to ban the naming of defendants in criminal cases.

I refer to the fact that hardly a day passes when one does not read or hear that, for legal reasons, those under the age of 18 involved as defendants in proceedings in magistrates' or crown courts "cannot be named for legal reasons".

Unlike those under 18 appearing before youth courts, juveniles or young persons appearing before an adult court can be named unless the magistrates or judge makes a Section 39 order under the Children & Young Persons Act 1933 imposing a ban on identification of a person under 18.

Quite often in cases involving those under 18 which lead to a feeling of disgust among the public, offenders are not named in reports, although no indication is given as to the reason for

this anonymity. Quite often it is because editors assume there is a blanket ban on identification, although my colleagues on the Law Board of the National Council for the Training of Journalists and myself are of the opinion that Section 39 orders are not made automatically and it is often ignorance of the law in this respect which leads editors to think there is an automatic ban.

If the media allows this misapprehension to be perpetuated, it may not be long before there is a campaign for a ban on naming all defendants unless the court makes a contrary order, on the grounds of discrimination against those aged over 18.

Yours etc,
D. J. CASSELL
(Chairman, Law Board),
National Council for the
Training of Journalists,
Latton Bush Centre,
Southern Way, Harlow, Essex,
July 23.

Women lawyers

From Miss Barbara Hewson

Sir, I read with interest the letter from the Chairman of the Bar (July 18) on what is being done to promote equality for women barristers.

The underlying problem (which Mr Penry-Davey does not acknowledge) lies, I feel, in the institutionalised complacency among those at the top: benchers of the Inns of Court who continue to operate like private men's clubs, senior QCs who see no reason to change the system of secret soundings, heads of chambers who see the equality code as "politically correct nonsense"; barristers' clerks who refuse to accept that discrimination is a problem; and so on.

I was involved in the Bar Council's equality initiatives from 1992 to 1995.

Safety awards

From Sir Roger Moate, MP for Faversham (Conservative)

Sir, Your obituary of James Tye (July 24; letter, July 25) threw considerable light on the achievements of this considerable personality. The British Safety Council, which he founded, has a very high profile, particularly with regard to the National Safety Awards which it gives to British industry.

However, it is only one of a number of such bodies, including the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. I am sure there are many who would see the advantage of there being just one major national organisation responsible for the principal industrial safety awards. This would surely enhance the status and value of such awards in this crucial field of industrial safety.

Perhaps this is the moment when those most directly concerned could consider how best this objective could be achieved.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER MOATE,
House of Commons,
July 25.

Is anybody there?

From Mr C. A. Latimer

Sir, Sir Isaiah Berlin tells us (article, July 19) that Bertrand Russell, when asked what he would say if confronted with God when dead, replied "I would say — well, why on earth didn't you give better evidence of your existence?"

"To my mind, God could have very reasonably replied, 'Come on, Russell, don't be stupid, you can do better than that. If I gave better evidence, how could I claim to be a God whose service is perfect freedom', which you will find in your Book of Common Prayer, if you ever read it!"

Russell is always given credit for huge intelligence, but sometimes one wonders.

Yours faithfully,
C. A. LATIMER,
3 The Street,
Melton, Woodbridge, Suffolk,
July 21.

An outsider in the saint stakes

From Mr David Gould

Sir, Mr and Mrs Cooper's well-intentioned letter about William Morris (July 23) would have drawn some pungent remarks from him. After leaving Oxford in 1856 Morris abandoned any thoughts of a career in the Church, and in middle life his political allegiance was towards communism. He became a professed agnostic.

Morris had immense energy and, after reading Marx, he threw himself wholeheartedly for some ten years into the communist cause, speaking at meetings all over the country. This amazed his friends, and many of them played down the matter after his death as a deplorable aberration. Nevertheless, his political work was as important a part of his life as his decorative work and his poetry.

As for Morris's "exemplary life", he was short-tempered, stamping and shouting, on one occasion throwing one of his incompetent workmen into a vat of green dye. And his wife had the table legs screwed to the floor to prevent him from restlessly overturning it during his heated rages. Bernard Shaw, as usual, must have had his tongue in his cheek when he suggested calling Morris a saint.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GOULD,
Highcroft,
South Woodchester, Gloucestershire,
July 24.

Plans for Stonehenge

From Mrs Jack Hillier

Sir, In the past, on a long drive west, we would stop near Stonehenge for a picnic breakfast and marvel at its solitary mystery.

It therefore seems a cruel celebration of the millennium to build a £65 million theme park there (report, July 20) under the aegis of English Heritage.

Each year police are used to keep "travellers" away, but now 1.8 million visitors are to be welcomed.

Sincerely,
MARY HILLIER,
30 Clarence Road,
Meadville, Redhill, Surrey,
July 20.

The sound and the fury

From Mr Kelvin Nel

Sir, As a cinema manager I wholeheartedly agree with Geoff Brown (article, Arts, July 23) that some film soundtracks can combine a high decibel level with a low standard of clarity and audibility. But I dispute his assertion that "in Britain we are more likely to follow the bad habit of suffering in silence".

It is a myth that the British public don't complain. However cinemas, as exhibitors, are the middle men.

The director and/or distributor order us to play their films at particular sound levels, which often deafen our audiences. We get the complaints, but the people who need to be told to be quiet are the distributors.

Yours sincerely,
KELVIN NEL, Manager,
The Plaza, Lower Regent Street, SW1,
July 23.

Title deeds

From Mr John Elworthy

Sir, Brian MacArthur's summary of Fleet Street's campaign to reinstate the title HRH to the Princess of Wales (article, Media and Marketing, July 24) caused me to wonder why the fourth estate shouldn't declare UDI and continue to refer to her as Her Royal Highness. Apart from banishment to the Tower I can see little the Palace could do.

At the very least those of us who enjoy such meals could look forward to a truly majestic summer of discontent.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ELWORTHY,
The Chequers Country Inn,
Eriswell, Suffolk,
July 24.

Trade descriptions

From Mr Thomas McLaughlin

Sir, Flight Officer Mark Ashford's views (letter, July 22) may be near "the leading edge" but, were I his passenger, I should prefer them to be based on hands-on experience.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS MCLAUGHLIN,
4 Mumru Road, Jordanhill, Glasgow,
July 22.

From Mr Simon Mace

Sir, As a wine broker I suppose my views might be described as "scrapping the barrel" or reflecting those heard "on the grapevine".

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
SIMON MACE,
15 Cheyne Walk, SW3,
July 22.

From Mr Paul R. Rawson

Sir, An accountant's view is "balanced", a farmer's "down to earth", a judge's "determined", a pugilist's "challenging".

Yours faithfully,
PAUL R. RAWSON,
Springwood, Audlem, Cheshire,
July 22.

That attending this year's Bar conference, "Shaping the Future: the Way Forward for the Bar", will see that there is not a single woman barrister in private practice among the scheduled speakers. Even the panel on human rights is all-male. When is the Bar Council going to start putting the theory into practice?

I remain, Sir, yours sincerely,
BARBARA HEWSON,
12 Gray's Inn Square,
Gray's Inn, WC1,
July 19.

Aldeburgh statue

From the President of the Royal Society of British Sculptors

Sir, No one can argue with the fact that Benjamin Britten put Aldeburgh on the map as an international cultural centre. What may not immediately occur to the town councillors who oppose the erection of a statue to him (report, July 24) is what sort of contribution he made and continues to make to the financial health of their own community.

Local business and commerce benefited from the wealth brought by visitors who attend rousic festivals and inevitably some of this finds its way into improving the facilities and standard of living for the local population. Culture is not just good for the soul, it's good for the pocket too.

I hazard a guess that if Aldeburgh's councillors took 1 per cent of the money generated by the music festival they would have enough to build their bird table, plant their tree and commission sculpture to honour George Crabbe, Elizabeth Garrett-Anderson and Benjamin Britten.

Yours sincerely,
MAURICE BLIK,
President,
Royal Society of British Sculptors,
Dora House,
108 Old Brompton Road, SW7,
July 25.

Olympic spirit

From Mr John Harris

Sir, Isn't it rather ripe of the British media to snipe at the transport difficulties at the Olympic Games in Atlanta (reports, July 23) whilst Londoners are continuing to experience travelling frustrations during the one-day Tube strikes?

Perhaps a few British medal successes will help us focus on the true spirit of the Olympic Games.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HARRIS,
46 Oakfield Road,
Harpden,
Hertfordshire,
July 25.

OBITUARIES

SIR DAVID NICOLSON

Sir David Nicolson, company chairman and former MEP, died on July 19 aged 73. He was born on September 20, 1922.

DAVID NICOLSON laid the foundations for the present-day British Airways when, as chairman of the BA Board 1971-75, he welded the former British Overseas Airways and the British Overseas Airways Corporation into one company.

Headhunted for his management skills by John Davies, then Trade and Industry Secretary in the Heath Government, Nicolson himself had no experience of the industry and had to learn on the expertise of his subordinates.

Moreover, he lacked support from Whitehall, which sometimes seemed more concerned to bury him than to praise his achievements. Nicolson had to put up with continual interference - not least from the Aerospace Minister, Michael Heseltine, who gave him an unhappy time.

While his role at BA raised Nicolson's public profile, he was already a leading captain of British industry with an increasing collection of directorships. Originally, however, he had signed on for a career in the Royal Navy.

Born in London, David Lancaster Nicolson was the son of a Canadian engineer, whose own father had migrated to Nova Scotia from a Scottish farm.

Forced to leave Haileybury School when his father lost his sight, and consequently his income, he won a place at St Paul's and then another at Imperial College London. While he was there, his father was killed when their home was bombed, but the young Nicolson went on to take a degree in engineering and then signed on for 11



[Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering], 1986-87. He was knighted in 1975. Working from his own office in the West End, he also served on a number of professional bodies like the Council of the CBI and the America European Community Association, which he founded in 1981 and which reflected his passion for global co-operation.

His enthusiasm for Europe was demonstrated by his election as the Conservative MEP for London Central in 1979. But in spite of his large majority he resigned from it after five years - exasperated apparently by its bureaucracy.

He wrote extensively on manufacturing and management and lectured all over the world. Although believing in the profit motive and what he called the "discipline of the stock market", he was in many ways an idealist with progressive views on industrial relations.

His experience as an MEP seemed only to deepen his scepticism about politicians and he criticised both parties for interfering in the management of state-owned industries. His great hero was Napoleon and one of his favourite quotes was that one bad general was preferable to two good ones.

He retired from most of his directorships the following year. An accomplished stand-off half and wicketkeeper in his youth, he had few outside intellectual interests in later life and found it hard to adjust to the routine of a retired businessman.

By now a management consultant and analyst with a rising reputation, Nicolson's interests grew steadily. His many chairmanships were to include those of BTR, 1969-84, Rothmans International, 1975-84, and VSEL

years in the Royal Navy. Commissioned into the Royal Corps of Naval Constructors he served as a damage control officer in ships and submarines in the North Atlantic and Russian convoys, repairing and helping to salvage stricken vessels.

Dispatched to Normandy on D-Day, he did similar work for the American landing on Omaha Beach - and subsequently in other harbours as the Allies advanced on Berlin. He was wounded three times during the landings and was mentioned in dispatches for carrying out repairs under fire. But he was also appalled by the carnage that it made him a lifelong advocate of a united Europe.

Despite his early ambitions, and indeed his original contractual obligations, Nicolson left the Navy as his numbers were cut back after the war. He went to work for a succession of different firms, including Vickers, Bucyrus-Erie in Milwaukee (his father's old company) and Production Engineering (later to become the PE Group), joining Production Engineering in 1953, he stayed with them for 15 years, becoming chairman, in 1963.

Dispatched to Normandy on D-Day, he did similar work for the American landing on Omaha Beach - and subsequently in other harbours as the Allies advanced on Berlin. He was wounded three times during the landings and was mentioned in dispatches for carrying out repairs under fire. But he was also appalled by the carnage that it made him a lifelong advocate of a united Europe.

HANS FELLNER

Hans Fellner, consultant to Christie's and bookseller, died in London from cancer on July 18 aged 71. He was born in Vienna on June 13, 1925.



HANS FELLNER was the mainstay of Christie's book department for the last twenty years, as catalogue, department head and latterly as consultant. Although he had no literary degree or formal training in bibliography, paleontology or art history, his expert opinion on all manner of manuscripts and printed books was frequently sought and widely respected.

He wrote no books or scholarly articles, but his contributions to the nation, a lesser known activity of the auction houses, were significant. His catalogues were physically modest productions but their descriptions were both learned and commercial; his best clients were university libraries, mostly in the United States.

Before joining Christie's in 1976, under the mistaken impression that the saleroom would be less wearing on a weak heart than the trade and might involve less travel, Hans Fellner had been a successful antiquarian bookseller in Bloomsbury for almost 25 years, first in the employment of David Nutt and from the mid-1950s independently. He concentrated especially on books in the history of economics, which he continued to collect long after vacating his upstairs

Smethwick Grammar School was easily made, and during the war young Fellner went on to read engineering at Birmingham.

Until his entry into the book trade, he held a number of miscellaneous jobs to support his young family. Important German and Austrian emigre bookdealers in England and on America's East and West coasts were ten to forty years older than Hans Fellner and had already been well established before the war. Breslauer, Eisenman, Rosenthal and others in London. Kraus, Schab, Ranschburg and others in New York no doubt inspired Fellner, but most knew him only as a bookshop. (Political economic theory was a lifelong interest, his own leanings moving from extreme leftwing as middle age approached.)

His catalogues were physically modest productions but their descriptions were both learned and commercial; his best clients were university libraries, mostly in the United States. This was also the time of regular Saturday teas with E. Ph. Goldschmidt, the binding historian and already legendary bookseller, usually after a visit to the British Museum Library. Both were Viennese Jews, deeply Anglophile but for some reason never giving up their nationality (the older Goldschmidt, a Cambridge graduate and permanently established in London since the early Twenties, carried a Dutch passport, Fellner remained Austrian).

Hans Fellner, aged 13, came to this country in the charitable programme of Kindertransporte, the so-called "children's train", organised from offices at Bloomsbury House. His father had first been a banker, then cultural attaché at the French Embassy in Vienna; his mother was a doctor of philosophy. Both parents - albeit separated - survived the war, living in France. The step from Akademisches Gymnasium to

JOYCE BUCK

Joyce Buck, American actress and interior designer, died in Santa Monica, California, on July 13 aged 71. She was born in Chicago, Illinois, on April 17, 1925.



THE life of Joyce Buck was inextricably bound up with the larger diaspora of Hollywood directors and producers to Europe which took place during the 1930s as a result of Joseph McCarthy's red-baiting. Joyce Buck was married, for fifty years, to the producer Jules Buck. Neither was ever accused of being a Communist, but both felt that the atmosphere in Hollywood had become so sour and tainted that the only civilised course was to go and live in Europe.

During the 1940s Joyce Buck was regarded as one of the most glamorous women in London. She had dark hair, which was highlighted by a distinguished white streak, and deep brown eyes. She was elegantly dressed, often in haute couture. Complementing her husband's work, she became a sounding board to many people in the industry,

men like John Huston, whose daughter Anjelica was about the same age as her own daughter. That daughter, Joan Juliet Buck, went on to be Editor of French Vogue. Later Joyce Buck developed her own career as an interior designer in London and California.

Joyce Ruth Getz, as she was before her marriage, was born in Chicago but brought up in New York City, where her father, a businessman, had moved the family. She attended the Professional Children's School and was acting from the age of nine under the stage name of Gates, working both in the theatre and on radio. One of the plays in which she appeared, *Franklin Street*, introduced her to her best friend, Betty (Lauren) Bacall. They were both Conover girls - the top agency for fashion models - and Joyce appeared on the cover of magazines such as *Charm*.

She left for Hollywood with a studio contract at the age of 18. Because of her strong colouring, she was often cast as a gypsy girl. Then, at the same time as her friend Bacall met Humphrey Bogart, Joyce

met Jules Buck, a US Army captain. In peacetime he reverted to his job in the film industry as a producer at 20th Century Fox. They were married in 1945, after which her film career stalled - not something she much regretted

as she was never inordinately ambitious for fame.

In 1952 the Bucks moved to Paris, where her husband worked in films, and then came to London in 1957. The following year, Buck began his long working partnership with Peter O'Toole, with whom he founded Keep Films. His productions from this period included *Becket* and *The Ruling Class*. In her home in Belgravia Joyce Buck entertained many of the great names from London's theatrical and film community.

In some respects, London had the effect of bringing her closer to her American roots. She became involved with Democrats Abroad, which she co-chaired (with Toby Hyde) and which campaigned in London for George McGovern and Jimmy Carter during the 1972 and 1976 presidential elections. She was also involved with the Royal Court Theatre.

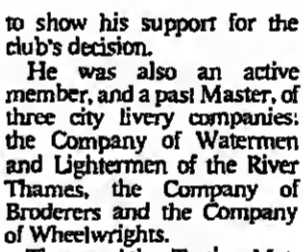
At the same time her interior design business was taking off. When she and her husband moved back to California in 1980, she designed homes for Coral Browne and Vincent Price, Mrs William Wyler and Sam Jaffe. Her taste was bold, and she favoured large, imposing pieces of furniture (as a bride, she had brought her own massive 17th-century examples from a sale at the home of William Randolph Hearst).

Tactful but firm in steering a client away from anything ugly, she would usually gain their way by regarding the offending object innocently, and asking: "Did you really learn and giving impeccable guidance to those around her. Two days before her death she was helping her daughter on the proofs for the September edition of *French Vogue*.

Joyce Buck is survived by her husband and daughter.

TERTIUS METCALF

Tertius Metcalf, businessman, died from cancer on June 22 aged 63. He was born on December 23, 1932.



TERTIUS METCALF was a larger than life character. With his curious combination of an eclectic intellect, a profound piety, a sartorial fastidiousness and a tendency towards misogyny, he often seemed to belong to a world whose time had passed.

A layman with a tremendous devotion to the Roman Catholic faith, he was a Brother of the Little Oratory, an institute founded by St Philip Neri in 1523 so that "merchants, physicians, lawyers and courtiers, reached a high degree of spirituality, leading in the midst of their temporal occupations a life as pure and devout as the most fervent religious in their monasteries".

As a member of this brotherhood he could be found fulfilling such functions as carrying the great cross at the head of the majestic Corpus Christi procession in London's Brompton Oratory. But he also made a jovial companion to his fellow brothers as his conversation flitted from heraldry to the topography of London, from races to the liturgy of the Mass.

However, he did not find the company of women so congenial. In an unguarded suit and red carnation he was a familiar figure at the Travellers Club and the Reform. But he disapproved of female membership of these clubs, though in the end he admitted that it made little difference to him as, thankfully, the women were all gone by 6pm. When several eminent members of the Oxford and Cambridge Club resigned after women were refused full membership there, Metcalf promptly joined

to show his support for the club's decision. He was also an active member, and a past Master, of three city livery companies: the Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames, the Company of Broderers and the Company of Wheelwrights.

Thomas John Tertius Metcalf was educated at Beaumont College. His Jesuit education, it was said, gave his mind a polemical edge, making him a formidable opponent in debate. After school he did his National Service in the RAF, in which

he reached the rank of corporal. On demobilisation he went up to Downing College, Cambridge, to read history. Much of his time there was taken up at the Newmarket races but he continued to be an active participant in Cambridge Union debates. Many fellow undergraduates will remember his fierce attack on Anthony Eden over the mishandling of the Suez affair of 40 years ago.

It was at Cambridge that he met the Roman Catholic chaplain Monsignor Gilbey, whose deeply traditionalist views remained an influence on him.

Gilbey would reprimand Metcalf who, a staunch Jacobite, would raise toasts to the "king over the water", to Albert, King of Great Britain, Ireland, France and Bavaria. Gilbey would remind him that, having taken the oath of allegiance on joining the RAF, he was bound to the House of Windsor.

After his graduation in 1956 he read for the Bar at Gray's Inn, but was never to qualify. His father sent him to work at C. T. Bowring to learn marine insurance. He then joined the family firm of Metcalf Motor Coasters, succeeding his father as chairman in 1970.

In that same year he took up chairmanship of the company C. Crawley, which supplied fresh water to shipping, working from an office in Gravesend. He held the post until the end of his life, arriving in the office at the crack of dawn, no matter how late he had stayed up the night before.

He had a deep interest in architecture and in the River Thames. He always regretted that government policy was to put most transport on the roads, not least because this policy hit his business hard. He was also an ardent member of the Liberal Party and was chairman of the Chelsea Liberals in the 1960s, when he stood for the Greater London Council.

But Metcalf's primary passion remained his Catholic faith. Joining the Brothers of the Little Oratory, he passed from postulant to being a full brother in 1990 and was soon made consultant and then vice-master. One of the most moving moments in his life, he said, was the time that he served a Maaronite Mass in which the liturgy was sung in Aramaic, the language which Christ would have spoken to his disciples.

Metcalf was unmarried.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Grid of personal advertisements including 'WHAT'S YOUR TARTAN?', 'FLIGHTS DIRECTORY', 'VICEROY TRAVEL', 'COLLEGE OF PAEDIATRICS AND CHILD HEALTH', and various services.

MUSSOLINI RESIGNS

The following proclamation was issued by King Victor Emmanuel: "Italians! I am assuming to-day the leadership of all the armed forces. In the solemn hour of the Fatherland's destiny, every one must stand by his place of duty, faith, and combat." "No deviation can be tolerated. No recrimination may be allowed. Each Italian must bow before the grave wounds that have torn the sacred soil of the Fatherland."

ON THIS DAY

July 26, 1943

With the dictator's resignation the Hitler-Mussolini partnership - the glorious comradeship in arms - collapsed. Italy surrendered on September 3 and in October declared war on Germany. Mussolini was captured in his destroyed cities, maintained in her given word, jealous keeper of her many thousands of years of traditions.

FASCIST OMISSION

"GIOVENEZZA" NOT PLAYED FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT The resignation of Mussolini was announced in the following terms by Rome Radio: "His Majesty the King-Emperor has accepted the resignation of the head of the Government, Prime Minister and Secretary of State, tendered by his Excellency Benito Mussolini."

NEWS

Short demoted by ruthless Blair

Tony Blair ousted Clare Short from her post as Shadow Transport Secretary in a ruthless reshuffle of his top team. Ignoring Ms Short's strong showing in the Shadow Cabinet elections, and despite her efforts to secure a better job, he demoted her to a low-key post in charge of overseas development and replaced her with Andrew Smith, who did not even stand for the elections. Page 1

Portillo victory over £4bn RAF order

A £4 billion defence order that will safeguard thousands of jobs was announced after Michael Heseltine was called in to resolve a Cabinet battle between the Chancellor and the Defence Secretary. Michael Portillo said the three RAF contracts, all with British companies, would help to sustain about 5,000 jobs. Page 1

Massacre fears

There were fears that the central African republic of Burundi was about to be engulfed in massacres after the army took power in a coup, bringing new fears of Hutu-Tutsi violence. Page 1, 14

Count on Taiwan

Teachers should look to Taiwan for lessons in stopping the worrying decline in mathematical ability among British pupils, school inspectors said. Page 7

Spinal success

A breakthrough in spinal injury research has been made by scientists who have restored movement to the legs of totally paralysed animals. Page 8

Wolf hunt

Hundreds of men with staves, knives and guns gathered on a plateau in southern France to hunt a sheep-killing wolf dubbed the Beast of Larzac. Page 10

Israeli challenge

Binyamin Netanyahu threw down a peace challenge to Syria's President Assad, offering to pull troops out of southern Lebanon in exchange for peace along Israel's northern border. Page 11

Plea for calm

The Sri Lankan Government urged the nation to be calm after a calamitous week of killings that could threaten a Sinhalese backlash against the Tamil minority. Page 14

Black boxes found

The investigation into the TWA Flight 800 crash was close to a breakthrough as Washington experts examined the jets' black boxes, recovered by divers 100ft down off Long Island. Page 15

The Suez crisis revisited, 40 years on

Forty years ago today Gamal Abdel Nasser announced the Suez Canal Company's nationalisation, provoking a crisis that destroyed Britain's Prime Minister and divided its people. It also ended hopes of peaceful co-existence between Israel and its Arab neighbours; set in train the Empire's dismemberment; and brought the world close to nuclear war. Page 6



Imran Khan leaving the High Court in London yesterday with his wife, Jemima, right, and her mother, Lady Goldsmith. Page 5

BUSINESS

Jobs: ICI is cutting 2,700 jobs in a £137 million worldwide restructuring and Philips Electronics, 6,000, mainly in Europe. Page 23, 24

British Gas: British Gas launched an unprecedented tax challenge on the Government, demanding the repayment of £1 billion plus in interest. Page 23

Mortgages: Nationwide Building Society knocked 0.25 per cent off its standard home loan rate to 6.49 per cent, the lowest for 31 years. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 15.9 points to close at 3684.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from \$5.0 to \$4.9 after a rise from \$1.5541 to \$1.5580, but a fall from DM2.3120 to DM2.3027. Page 26

SPORT

Cricket: Pakistan, rescued by Inzamam-ul-Haq's superb 148 on the opening day of the first Test against England at Lord's, were 290 for 9 at the close. Page 44

Olympic Games: Three British crews, led by the defending coxless pairs champions Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, reached the rowing finals. Page 41

Rugby: Martin Offiah is on the verge of a transfer from Wigan to London Broncos. He is also set to play rugby union for a club in the South. Page 36

Motor racing: Damon Hill, preparing for the German Grand Prix, brushed aside speculation that his team, Williams, had signed Heinz-Harald Frentzen to replace him next season. Page 36

ARTS

Troilus staged: Benedict Nightingale reviews the bold new RSC production of "Shakespeare's most cynically modern play". Troilus and Cressida. Page 30

Pop on Friday: Alan Jackson on Sinead Lohan, the new voice of Irish folk music; David Sinclair on the Sex Pistols' album; Caitlin Moran on the morality of "outing" gay rock stars. Page 31

Bak reviewed: More than 80 years after its composition, Arnold Bax's sensuous orchestral piece, Spring Fire, has finally received its Proms premiere. Page 30

Feats of clay: Britain's potters are among the best in the world, and both galleries and dealers are finally waking up to the fact. Page 32

FEATURES

On the border: How could "God's chosen people" have made such enemies of the Arabs? Page 16

Brutal treatment: Thirty years ago doctors believed homosexuality could be cured by encouraging such behaviour and then making the person vomit. Page 16

Valerie Grove interviews David Heathcoat-Amory, the Paymaster General who resigned this week and is more famous out of office than he was when in it. Page 17

Feet first: Giles Coren asks why is it fashionable to wear sandals when feet are revolting? Page 17

EDUCATION

Reaching rock bottom: A study of standards in maths shows that England has slipped to the bottom of the league compared with nine similar countries. It is no longer a question of is there a problem, but of how can it be tackled? Page 35

Insiders pushed out: Business schools are turning out people trained only in finance, who then go on to manage businesses they know nothing about. Page 35

THE PAPERS

The EU and Japan have good reason to protest. Neither a free trade zone nor a multilateral world order can withstand a country like the United States when it decides to put pressure on those it thinks support terrorism. Page 35

Frankfurter Rundschau

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES Fashion safari: the coolest clothes for hot climates, in the Magazine

PLUS... Vision, the seven-day guide to the best of terrestrial and satellite television, and radio

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Mark Morrison and Neneh Cherry star in the return of the music show. The White Room (Channel 4, 11.35pm). Review: Matthew Bond is almost convinced by the latest attempt to unmask Jack the Ripper. Page 43

OPINION

Hotspur's hour It is for other, strategic reasons advanced by Mr Portillo that the Treasury deserved its defeat. But for the Defence Secretary, this crucial victory must be sweet at any price. Page 19

Netanyahu's offer The next move is for Damascus. However Mr Assad may want to keep open the option of terrorising north Israel. Page 19

Short shrift Clare Short should be safe at Overseas Development at least in that industry there are no trade unions. Page 19

COLUMNS

MAGNUS LINKLATER The crowd rises to Ms Sanchez as she executes her first faena immaculately, then boos and whistles as she struggles to dispatch her second bull, falling time after time to thrust the sword home. Finally, and humiliatingly, a male torero finishes the job for her. Page 18

PHILIP HOWARD Pace soppo "Baron" Pierre de Courbertin and Charlois of Fire, what has always mattered at the Olympics is winning, not taking part. Pindar, their first (Doric) columnist, wrote about the losers "skulking furtively down the back alleys at home, shamed by their loss". Page 18

PETER RIDDELL What the Government has done, as so often in the past, is to announce big job saving defence orders and contracts before an election, leaving until later questions of how they will be financed. Page 9

OBITUARIES

Sir David Nicolson, company chairman and former MEP; Hans Fellner, Christie's fine books seller; Joyce Buck, interior designer. Page 27

LETTERS

BSE: naming defendants; women lawyers; William Morris; Stonehenge. Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,230

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers in the starting squares. The grid is 20 squares wide and 23 squares high.

- ACROSS
1 Domestic help requiring money for livelihood (5,5).
9 Batsman needed to remove cap (6).
10 Pool for divers and others? (4-4).
11 Sellers of oil, inter alia, for baldness (8).
12 Hebrew character's little woman (4).
13 Face growth that's essential to a Greek island (10).
15 Goes further down to find some swans on river (7).
17 Current translation of Medea in learned circles (7).
20 Talked evasively, like Kipling's fools at the wicket (10).
21 Drop in skip (4).
23 Element opposed to funds rejecting European capital (8).

BACK TO BACK USED
A B C D E
F G H I J
K L M N O
P Q R S T
U V W X Y
Z

TIMES WEATHERCAL

Table with 2 columns: Location and Temperature. Locations include Greater London, Kent, Sussex, Dorset, Devon & Cornwall, etc. Temperatures range from 10 to 22.

AA ROADWATCH

Table with 2 columns: Location and Road Status. Locations include London & SE traffic, roadworks, etc. Road status includes delays, closures, etc.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table with 2 columns: Location and Temperature. Locations include Yesterday, Highest day temp, Lowest day temp, etc. Temperatures range from 10 to 22.

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will start cloudy in the north and west, with patchy light rain, mostly along the coasts and over hills. It will turn drier from the north. South Wales and the rest of England will start out dry with variable cloud. The best of early sunshine will be in the South East, but cloud will increase with the risk of a shower later. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a cloudy start with coastal drizzle, turning showery later. The best of the sunny breaks will be in sheltered eastern parts.
London, SE England, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, Central N: dry at first with sunny intervals, scattered showers later. Wind light to moderate, northwesterly. Warm. Max 24C (75F).
E Anglia, E & NE England: cloudy at first, brighter for a time but with the risk of a few scattered showers. Wind light to moderate, northwesterly. Max 23C (73F).
SW & NW England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: cloudy with

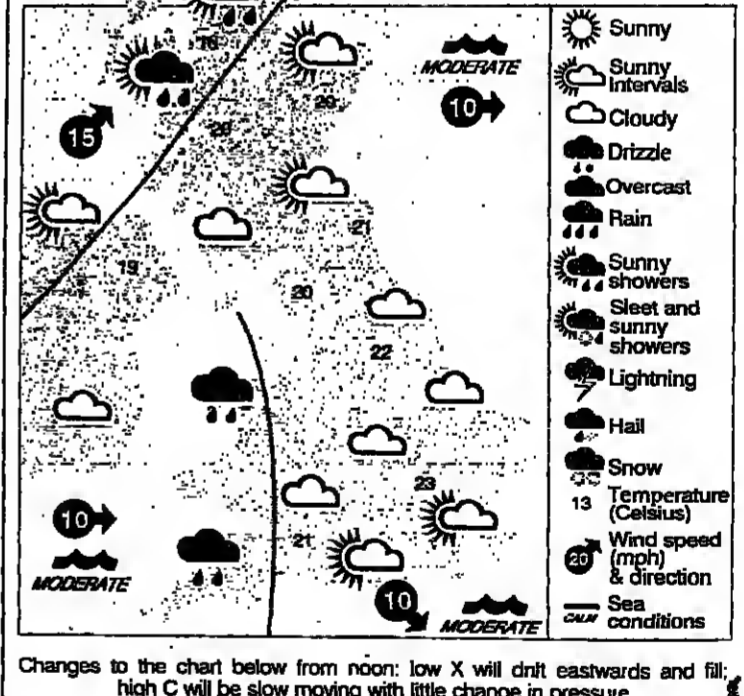
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table with 2 columns: Location and Temperature. Locations include Aberdeen, Anglesey, Ayr, Belfast, Birmingham, Bolton, Bournemouth, Bradford, Brighton, Bristol, Cardiff, Chester, Cleethorpe, Colchester, Cromer, Dover, Dundee, Eastbourne, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Harrogate, Hull, Ipswich, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Luton, Manchester, Newcastle, Norwich, Oxford, Peterborough, Plymouth, Poole, Preston, Reading, Southampton, Swansea, Telford, Torquay, Wakefield, Walsley, Weymouth, York. Temperatures range from 10 to 22.

ABROAD

Table with 2 columns: Location and Temperature. Locations include Alajuela, Amman, Athens, Bangkok, Barbados, Barcelona, Beijing, Bern, Bogota, Brasilia, Buenos Aires, Calcutta, Cape Town, Chicago, Cologne, Corfu, Copenhagen, Dublin, Frankfurt, Geneva, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Johannesburg, Kuala Lumpur, London, Los Angeles, Luxembourg, Madrid, Manila, Mexico City, Moscow, Mumbai, New Delhi, New York, Ottawa, Paris, Perth, Rome, Santiago, Sao Paulo, Seoul, Singapore, Sydney, Taipei, Toronto, Tokyo, Vancouver, Wellington, Zurich. Temperatures range from 10 to 22.

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below noon: low X will drift eastwards and fill, high C will be slow moving with little change in pressure

Table with 2 columns: Location and Temperature. Locations include London, Aberdeen, Avonmouth, Cardiff, Doverport, Dundee, Dublin (N Wall), Falkland, Glasgow, Harwich, Holyhead, Hull, Inverness, Liverpool, London, Luton, Manchester, Newcastle, Norwich, Oxford, Peterborough, Plymouth, Poole, Preston, Reading, Southampton, Swansea, Telford, Torquay, Wakefield, Walsley, Weymouth, York. Temperatures range from 10 to 22.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table with 2 columns: Location and Hours of Darkness. Locations include London, Bristol, Edinburgh, Manchester, Newcastle, Perth, Plymouth, Reading, Southampton, Swansea, Telford, Torquay, Wakefield, Walsley, Weymouth, York. Hours of darkness range from 15:17 to 17:51.

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY BUSINESS

Brit threat in £

Weak force shed 2.7

25/10/96

THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION
2
TODAY



BUSINESS
British Gas raises the pressure on the Government
PAGE 27



ARTS
Live and lacerating: the Sex Pistols' great new album
PAGES 30-32



SPORT
Fortunes swing on testing first day at Lord's
PAGES 36-44

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 42-43

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY JULY 26 1996

British Gas threat to DTI in £1bn writ

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BRITISH GAS yesterday launched an unprecedented tax challenge, demanding that the Government repay £1 billion plus interest. In a writ to the Department of Trade and Industry, the company claimed it had overpaid tax due under the Gas Levy by £1 billion over the past ten years. The DTI responded with a raft of counter writs to gas producers. If British Gas proves its legal case, the Government will expect 27 gas producers to share the £1 billion burden. The gas producers include Shell, BP, Esso and Elf. Many of those affected have been holding talks with British Gas about its expensive take-or-pay contracts under which it is obliged to buy gas at prices far higher than those at which it can sell the fuel. British Gas is arguing that it has paid too much tax on 24 of its longest-held contracts which are in eight of the oldest gas fields. It is claiming overpayment for a ten-year period. The DTI said it did not believe British Gas's interpretation of

the law was correct but if the company were proved right "the Government would have to levy claims against producers of the gas in question". The move by British Gas throws the spotlight on the controversial contracts it struck in first generation gas fields, as a result of which it could now face a deficit of £4 billion. All eight UK continental shelf fields on which the dispute centres are old, fields for which British Gas entered into contracts covering the entire life of the fields. By arguing against its liability for the levy, it is expected to claim that contracts have developed in such a fashion that they are no longer subject to the levy. The crux of the argument could be that the company no longer has expectations to use the gas and therefore should not pay the levy. It could claim that the fields have been exploited in a way that exceeds its needs or wishes. British Gas is refusing to elaborate on how it will pursue its case. The companies that may face counterclaims from the

DTI are reluctant to comment before definite action. The Gas Levy was introduced in 1981 to tax output from old gas fields which had escaped the Petroleum Revenue Tax in 1975. The charge, currently 4p a therm, is levied on gas purchasers and on the field. The levy amount has previously been a bone of contention for British Gas and it has previously joined the Gas Consumers Council in arguing for a reduction in the charge. British Gas, which has paid £5.6 billion under the levy, is now disputing its liability on about a third of its contracts that are subject to it. The levy is generally paid by gas purchasers rather than producers, with the majority of gas purchasing conducted by British Gas. However, in some instances it is paid by producers who have a contract agreement with British Gas for a field but are selling on excess fuel to other buyers. British Gas said it had taken action now because legal demands dictated it had to make a move by the sixth anniversary of the Finance Act, which modified the levy. That day is today. British Gas and the DTI are now expected to hold talks before the company decides whether to move to the next stage and serve the writ. Although the DTI said there was no immediate schedule for talks, British Gas was optimistic that the dispute may not reach court. After issuing the writ, British Gas has four months in which to move on its action or abandon it. By the time it decides on its next step, British Gas will also know whether Ofgas has given any ground in its pricing review on TransCo or whether the issue will end up at the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. British Gas yesterday sealed a ten-year deal to sell gas through the continental interconnector to Germany. The agreement to sell about 20 billion cubic metres of gas to Wings as the biggest UK export deal so far struck for the interconnector which is due to begin operating in 1998. Pressure rises, page 27

Part-time post pays £120,000



No smoke without fire: Brandon Gough, right, chairman of Yorkshire Water, fends off shareholder criticism during a break in the meeting after a fire alarm sounded

Yorkshire Water chairman survives call to resign

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

YORKSHIRE WATER'S new part-time chairman kept his £120,000-a-year job yesterday after an attempt by some shareholders to remove him. Brandon Gough's commitment to spend one day a week in Yorkshire overseeing the affairs of the much criticised utility was not good enough, according to many at the annual meeting in Harrogate. A shareholder revolt against his reappointment was championed by Pirc, the corporate governance consultancy that advises institutional investors.

Mr Gough, 58, the former chairman of Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, lives in Kent and is chairman of two public bodies, as well as a director of National Power, George Wimpey and De La Rue. He faced strong criticism from some shareholders, who questioned his ability to fit six jobs into five working days. George Mountfield, from Sheffield, said: "With all Yorkshire Water's problems the last thing we need is a part-time chairman. This is the old boy's network, the City slick-

ers, and, looking at this board, that is all we have." Mr Gough said: "I'm in Yorkshire one day a week and I'm in touch with my colleagues almost every day. These days that is how companies are run. "I was offered £120,000 and I was very happy to accept it. It is a very substantial amount of money, but that is the deal." Mr Gough was reappointed by a substantial majority, on a show of hands. Pennington, page 25

Lowest loan rate since 1965

By ROBERT MILLER

NATIONWIDE Building Society yesterday threw down the gauntlet to its rivals in the mortgage market when it announced a 0.25 per cent reduction in its standard home loan rate to 6.49 per cent, the lowest for 31 years. The UK's second largest building society with around one million borrowers said the new rate, which takes effect from September 1 for new and existing customers, "reinforces the benefits of being with a building society". The proposed new rate compares with 6.99 per cent charged by the Halifax, the Woolwich and NatWest and Abbey National's 7.04 per cent. Brian Davis, chief executive of the Nationwide, said: "Our mortgage interest rates will have fallen by more than one per cent during 1996 and, as a result, typical Nationwide borrowers with a £50,000 interest-only mortgage will have seen their monthly mortgage payments fall by some £44 over the same period."

Garry Marsh, spokesman for the Halifax, which plans to become a £10 billion bank next year, said: "The Nationwide move is another salvo in the battle for mortgage market share. Previously, standard mortgage rates tended to be adjusted only in line with the Bank of England's base rate. That may now be a thing of the past." Initial reaction from competitors, like Bradford & Bingley, another society pledged to retain its mutual status, was not to follow suit. However, midsummer is generally quiet for the mortgage market and nearer to September there may be another bout of cuts to bring rivals closer to Nationwide. Cheltenham & Gloucester, now the retail mortgage arm of Lloyds TSB, said yesterday it had taken an estimated 15 per cent share of the UK net mortgage lending market for the first six months of the year. C&G also revealed profits to June 30 were £160.6 million, compared with £119.3 million for the five months it was under new ownership to December 31. Andrew Longhurst, chief executive of the C&G, said: "Strong sales of C&G mortgages through both Lloyds Bank and C&G branches have earned us more than double our natural market share, taking 15 per cent of an estimated £7.5 billion of UK net mortgage lending."

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3884.7	(+15.5)
Yield	4.11%	
FT-SE All share	1827.38	(+7.96)
Nikkei	20885.84	(+252.81)
Dow Jones	5410.91	(+56.22)
S&P Composite	631.98	(+5.33)
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	8 7/8%	(8 7/8%)
Yield	7.00%	(7.04%)
3-mth Interbank	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Life long gilt	10 3/4%	(10 3/4%)
New York:		
\$	1.6570*	(1.5521)
London:		
DM	1.5571	(1.5545)
FF	2.3020	(2.3121)
FF	7.8044	(7.8314)
SF	1.2750	(1.2838)
Yen	163.25*	(161.57)
£ Index	84.9	(85.0)
London:		
DM	1.4795*	(1.4810)
FF	5.0180*	(5.0480)
SF	1.2080*	(1.2156)
Yen	163.25*	(161.48)
£ Index	84.9	(86.1)
Tokyo close Yen	108.09	
Brent 15-day (Oct)	\$18.85	(\$18.85)
London close	\$385.05	(\$384.45)

* denotes midday trading price

Weak chemicals force ICI to shed 2,700 jobs

By GEORGE SIVELL

ICI is to cut 2,700 jobs in a £137 million worldwide restructuring made necessary by subdued conditions in world chemical markets and the impact of sharp price reductions in some industrial chemicals. The worst hit part of ICI, which employs 65,300 at present, will be the explosives operations in North America based in Dallas, Texas. Around 1,000 jobs will go in North America over the next 18 months. The biggest cuts in Britain will be at Darwen, Lancashire. A quarter of the 400 workforce at the acrylics plant will be lost. The cutbacks are an acceleration of ICI's rationalisation plans which have been brought forward by between six months and a year to finish at the end of 1997. Restructuring costs contributed to a sharp drop in half-year profits from £533 million to £260 million and in earnings from 45.4p to 19.4p a share. The half-year dividend, however, rises 8.7 per cent to 12.5p a share, not enough to stop the shares falling 17p to 761p. Stripping out the exceptional charges, ICI profits were still well down - from £510 million to £367 million. ICI is to spend around £65 million on restructuring North American explosives, £44 million on cuts in paints and £28 million on acrylics.

Only 15 per cent of the job cuts announced yesterday will fall in Britain. City chemicals analysts downgraded their estimates for current-year profits to between £700 and £750 million from £800 to £850 million. ICI says: "We continue to believe that the present difficulties in the market place represent a pause rather than a downturn in the economic cycle. "The UK economy continues to grow and consumer confidence appears to be increasing in the USA and UK. Japan is recovering. We believe there is a chance of modest growth in all major markets in 1997." Charles Miller Smith, chief executive, said that ICI is also reviewing its bulk chemical operations. He said ICI would "stay with bulk chemicals, where we feel we can make money over the cycle" but said "there will come a moment when we look to exit from certain businesses". He emphasised, however, that now "does not seem the right time, given the current weakness across bulk chemicals". Mr Miller Smith said destocking had affected much of the ICI business but that it had "generally run its course" except in nitroide and polyesters. Pennington, page 25

Somerfield likely to cut float price again

By ALASDAIR MURRAY



Simons: bonus blow

SOMERFIELD, the supermarket company, is likely today to cut its flotation price for the second time - to about 145p a share - in a final attempt to ensure that its debut on the stock market remains on course for next week. The company has been forced to act to overcome strong institutional resistance to the 160p a share pricing it had declared only last week. It is believed that institutional shareholders have now subscribed in sufficient numbers to ensure the flotation can still proceed. Another reduction in price would value Somerfield at £435 million,

almost a quarter less than the £70 million maximum valuation placed on the company in its offer document. The float has been dogged by difficult market conditions as well as concern that Somerfield may struggle in an already crowded supermarket sector. A profit warning last week from Iceland Foods, a rival, also caused nervousness among potential buyers. The float was originally priced at between 200p and 190p, but Somerfield was forced to drop the offer price to 160p last week. The institutions have been able to apply pressure because of the need for Somerfield's bankers to recoup some of

their loans. Somerfield was taken private seven years ago in a £2.1 billion buyout by Iscoles. The float was intended to fund the repayment of about £400 million to Somerfield's bankers and up to £300 million of Iscoles debt. Iscoles is likely to receive only a token payment after the latest drop in price. The revised price is also likely to cost David Simons, the company's chief executive, more than £1 million. Mr Simons was heavily criticised in the City for a flotation bonus deal worth up to £5.66 million, but now is likely to have to settle for a figure closer to £4 million. Pennington, page 25

Hays and Salvesen confirm bid talks

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

HAYS, the business services group, yesterday said that it is in bid talks with rival Christian Salvesen, which could lead to the creation of a distribution and services giant valued at about £2.7 billion. Hays is expected to offer up to 350p a share, valuing Christian Salvesen at about £1 billion. Hays will require a mixed cash and paper offer to fund the bid. The two companies were forced to reveal their discussions after recent share price fluctuations. Salvesen shares yesterday closed up 60p at 349p, while Hays shares tumbled 36p to 414p. The Salvesen board is expected to make a decision early next week, but much will depend on the attitude of the Salvesen family, who still control about 40 per cent of the company. Hays has made it clear that it is unlikely to make a hostile bid, but it is believed that the Salvesen family is aware of the need for consolidation in the sector. Ronnie Frost, chairman of Hays, said that the two companies would create a perfect fit with Salvesen distribution operations, enabling Hays to create a European-wide operation. But Hays is also likely to make a number of disposals, although it would only confirm that it expected to sell-off Salvesen's frozen food business. Another possible target is Aggreko, Salvesen's power generation and air conditioning unit. Tempus, page 26

EXHILARATION
CLASSIC FM 100-102

Philips responds to loss by cutting 6,000 jobs

By ERIC REGULY

PHILIPS ELECTRONICS, hit by declining prices for consumer products such as TVs and video recorders, is to shed 6,000 jobs, mostly in its European manufacturing operations, after reporting an unexpectedly deep loss in the latest quarter. The redundancies mark one of the company's largest retrenchment programmes.

Philips's net loss was 456 million guilders (£175 million) in the quarter to June 30, against a net profit of 583 million guilders in the same period a year ago. The latest figure includes an extraordinary charge of 760 million guilders to restructure

the sound and vision business, the largest part of its consumer products division.

The company blamed the poor results on the launch of a digital mobile-phone business, a cyclical downturn in semiconductors and other electronic components, and "increased price erosion" in some of its markets, notably sound and vision products. In the first half, the consumer products division lost 92 million guilders (269 million guilders).

The 6,000 jobs in the sound and vision business, equivalent to 15 per cent of its 40,000 jobs, will disappear by the end of next year and will affect all departments, from manufactur-

ing to marketing. Britain, however, will largely escape the retrenchment programme. Only 200 of Philips's 10,000 British employees work in the sound and vision business; most of those are in sales, marketing and customer service. A Philips spokesman in London said: "I would not expect much to happen here." Philips gave no details about the location of the job reductions, but it appears that manufacturing sites will be hardest hit.

The company said that the price of the sound and vision products fell by an average of 6 per cent in the first half, with the price of some products, such as video recorders, dropping by

10 per cent. In spite of the price erosion, Philips said it had no intention of abandoning the consumer electronics business or eliminating any products. Falling prices, it said, were an industry-wide problem.

Some analysts said that the job reductions alone might not be enough to reverse Philips's fortunes. Siran Street, of BZW, said: "It's not just a case of taking costs out; it's whether they have a plan to grow the business profitably."

Analysts said Philips needed new products to capture the buyers' imagination. The company, however, has not been at the forefront at introducing new products recently.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Kidder Peabody fine for UK irregularities

AFTER losing \$100 million on allegedly phoney trades, Kidder Peabody, the Wall Street securities firm, launched an inquiry into its operations worldwide which yesterday led to the firm's UK arm being fined £40,000 with £27,000 costs.

The Securities and Futures Authority, a UK watchdog, said yesterday that Kidder Peabody, which no longer operates in Britain, reported itself after the inquiry revealed that incorrect data fed into a computer led to understated losses on the options books of about \$3.5 million. Kidder ran the global checks after Joseph Jett, the US government bond trader sacked by Kidder Peabody, allegedly created \$350 million in phoney profits to hide \$100 million of real losses. The SFA has also reprimanded Peter Bryant and Jorge Vilan and fined them £5,000 and £2,500 respectively. Mr Bryant input incorrect price, volatility and interest rate data onto the risk model, while Mr Vilan failed to update interest rates on a daily basis.

Setback for Butte

BUTTE MINING suffered a further setback in its legal battle with Ernst & Young yesterday, when a High Court judge gave Butte three months to lodge £275,000 as security against the accountant's costs. The order relates to a £4.5 million action arising from an acquisition to which Ernst & Young was reporting accountant. If Butte fails to meet the deadline, the firm can apply for a stay or dismissal of the action. Last month, Mr Justice Lightman struck out a £110 million claim by Butte against Ernst & Young. Butte is appealing against the decision.

Boots sales up 7.2%

THE Boots Company, the high street chemist chain, reported a 7.2 per cent increase in like-for-like sales in the first quarter. Sales in the core chemist division rose 5 per cent. The strongest improvement, 11.7 per cent, came from Boots Healthcare International, helped by a 31 per cent jump in Nurofen sales. Boots' two DIY businesses had improved sales, rising 8.4 per cent at Do It All and 8.2 per cent at A G Stanley. The shares closed 15p up at 599p as analysts upgraded full-year profit forecasts to about £550 million.

Names urged to settle

THE Association of Lloyd's Members and the Society of Names have written to 24,000 action group members, warning them against turning down the Lloyd's settlement offer in favour of legal action alleging fraud at Lloyd's. The letter, signed by Sir David Berriman, Sir Adam Ridley, and Tom Benyon, describes the so-called fraud alternative as a high-risk strategy with considerable potential downside. Names would swap the advantages of the settlement offer for costly legal action with an uncertain outcome.

Increase at Witan

WITAN, the fifth largest investment trust with net assets of more than £1.1 billion, has announced an increase in its half-year net return on ordinary activities before taxation to £19.5 million (£16.4 million). However, Witan's share price has lagged behind the net asset value of 308p per share and yesterday rose just 2½p yesterday to 251½p. An interim dividend of 3.05p (2.95p) has been declared. It will be paid on September 13 to shareholders on the register at August 20.

IBM defies expectations

IBM, the computer manufacturer, earned \$1.3 billion (\$1.7 billion) in the second quarter, which was stronger than expected on Wall Street. The profit is equal to \$2.51 (\$2.97) a share on increased revenue of \$18.18 billion (\$17.53). Industry analysts said they were surprised by the resilience of IBM's results, especially its revenues, in a tough market and amid sluggishness in Europe. Louis Gerstner, IBM chairman, said results were hurt by short-term factors, including a drop in the price of computer memory chips and currency exchange rates.

Call for training league

LABOUR will introduce national league tables on training for Britain's top 100 companies in an effort to boost their commitment in this area if Tony Blair wins the next election. A training scoreboard will be introduced to expose companies' training records, and to act as a strong incentive for improving the extent and quality of training provision. Stephen Byers, Labour's Shadow Education and Employment Minister, will announce Labour's proposals today in a speech to teachers in Birmingham.

Admiral interim up

ADMIRAL, the computer service group, continued its strong growth in the six months to June 30, helped by its overseas acquisitions. Delphy Consultants, the Belgian group bought last year for £5 million, and Ares, its new French subsidiary, Group sales grew 42 per cent to £43 million. Pre-tax profits and interest were £5.06 million, 56 per cent ahead but overshadowed by the £5.48 million last time after a £2.23 million disposal. The interim dividend was increased to 0.7p (0.58p). Earnings grew to 55p per share (3.8p).

Toad wins VW order

SHARES in Toad, the AIM-listed car protection company, jumped 10p to 88p yesterday after it secured a deal worth £1.5 million a year to supply its pioneering window protection film to the Volkswagen Group. Secur-Fix, an invisible film which is stuck to side windows, was bought by Toad last August for £500,000 after trading for three years as a private company. The triple laminate film, which costs between £185 to £225 to install, is designed to prevent break-ins and protect passengers from flying glass in an accident.

Export rise helps cut trade gap to £985m

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

HIGHER exports helped Britain to narrow its trade deficit with the rest of the world in May to £985 million from April's shortfall of £1.36 billion.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics show that exports rose 2.5 per cent, while imports fell 0.5 per cent. But despite this apparent improvement, statisticians said the underlying trend of Britain's trade position was broadly flat.

Dissecting the figures showed that trade with coun-

tries outside the European Union was less encouraging than European trade. The trade gap with non-EU countries rose to £814 million from £799 million, while the EU deficit narrowed to £171 million from £564 million.

Separate figures for June for non-EU trade tended to confirm this picture. Britain's non-EU deficit widened to £1.13 billion, its highest level since February, 1993, from £814 million in May. However, the ONS pointed out that half of the deterioration was due to lower oil exports and erratic items, such as ships and precious stones. Exports in total fell 6.5 per cent in the month.

City economists said that yesterday's figures were encouraging because of the apparent buoyancy of exports to Europe, despite weak growth in continental markets. Martin Brookes, of Goldman Sachs, said that a sustained recovery in export volumes should emerge later this year from stronger activity in the European Union.

The Bundesbank held German interest rates yesterday, putting pressure on both the dollar and the pound. Some observers had speculated that the German central bank would leave the official discount and Lombard rates unchanged but cut its key money market repurchase rate. However, it left the repo at 3.30 per cent, the level it has been since February and where it will remain, at least for the next four weeks when the central bank is on holiday.

The dollar fell to DM1.4750 in early afternoon trading from DM1.49 just before the Bundesbank announcement. Sterling lost around a penny to close at around DM2.3027.

There was some speculation that the Bundesbank's policy-making council may be split after at least two senior members seemed to hint in the run-up to yesterday's meeting that a rate cut was possible. The mark's strength after news that rates were unchanged ironically strengthens the argument for a cut after the summer break. The weak dollar and strong mark have been putting an unwanted squeeze on German exporters.

Cheap calls and payoffs slow BT

HIGH redundancy charges and declining prices, especially for international calls, pushed down BT's earnings in the first quarter (Eric Reguly writes).

Pre-tax profits in the quarter to the end of June declined 0.6 per cent to £369 million on turnover of £3.64 billion, up 4.1 per cent. Continued double-digit growth at Cellnet, the mobile phone company 60 per cent owned by BT, was the main contributor to the increased turnover.

Redundancy charges more than doubled to £52 million as the company continued to cut jobs. Price cuts, meanwhile, reduced turnover by £130 million. The reductions dragged down the revenue from international calls by 3.7 per cent to £472 million.

The results were as expected, but analysts said the fall in international call volume growth from 9 per cent to 5 per cent on a moving average basis was cause for concern.

BT gave no indication whether it would accept OfTel's new regulatory package, with its August 2 deadline for agreement. A rejection would trigger a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry.

Tempus, page 26

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Models at Kookai in Kensington wearing clothes from the spring/summer collection

UK's Kookai stores head for market

THE UK's Kookai stores are coming to the stock market via a reverse takeover by Forminster, the clothing retailer, which has valued the 26-strong clothes chain at £11 million (Fraser Nelson writes).

Adjustbeter, which holds the Kookai franchise in the UK, will gain a 62 per cent stake in Forminster if its results reach an agreed target in January.

Michael Rahamin, Adjustbeter's founder and managing director, is to join Forminster's board.

Forminster closed its own women's wear division in May, incurring costs of £1 million, which created a loss of £500,000 for the year to April 30. Its shares were suspended at 72p yesterday. They are to begin trading again on August 20.

Childcare lobby scents victory

By ROBERT MILLER

A CAMPAIGN backed by some of Britain's largest employers, including British Airways, Shell, the BBC and Rover, is close to victory in its bid to force the Government to perform a policy U-turn on a national childcare strategy.

After lobby pressure from Employers for Childcare (EFC), which is also supported by the TUC and the Confederation of British Industry, Cheryl Gillan, a Minister at the Department for Education and Employment, has prepared a strategy paper covering children up to 14 throughout the year, after school and in the holidays. This week the childcare paper was circulated at Cabinet level and is understood to be based closely on EFC's Business Blueprint, launched by Sir Nicholas Goodison, deputy chairman of Lloyd's TSB, last September.

The employers' document insists that no form of employer-supported childcare provision should be liable to tax. EFC also says that childcare provision must match the different requirements and circumstances of all children and parents who need it.

Fiona Cannon, chairman of EFC, said: "If, as rumoured, the Government is shortly to publish a consultation document, we look forward to it reflecting our proposals for a Business Blueprint."

Fewer UK firms face the receiver

THE number of receiverships in Britain fell by 25 per cent during the first and second quarters of this year, confirming signs that the economy is entering a more stable period of recovery and consolidation, according to KPMG, the accountancy firm (Janet Bush writes).

Its figures show there were 334 receiverships in the second quarter compared with 444 in the first.

The largest fall, 53 per cent recorded in the North West, was from 57 receiverships in the first quarter to 27 in the second.

A longer comparison is also encouraging. Receiverships in the first six months of this year totalled 778, a drop of 18 per cent on the same period a year ago.

Savings boost on nuclear wind-down

By PHILIP BASSETT

BRITAIN'S nuclear decommissioning body now expects to complete the current wind-down of nuclear plants at a 40 per cent lower cost than originally planned.

The UK Atomic Energy Authority said the savings in the decommissioning programme meant "substantial reductions" in the cost of the plans to taxpayers.

The UKAEA said in its annual report that the cost of its decommissioning and radioactive waste management programmes for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 was £219 million, compared with the £363 million expected before the UKAEA took its present form after disposal of its commercial and technological divisions.

The UKAEA said that, with two of the three years of decommissioning completed

and the third "very firmly budgeted", the total cost of the programme is now expected to be £330 million in all — 40 per cent less than its original estimate of £537 million. Dr Derek Pooley, UKAEA chief executive, said: "This represents real savings to the taxpayer."

Even so, the estimated total future cost of eliminating the UKAEA's nuclear liabilities is now £7.4 billion.

Bank	Bank	Italy Lira	2470	2515
Australia \$	2.06	1.90	182.30	186.30
Austria Sch	17.29	15.79	0.596	0.541
Belgium Fr	50.70	46.40	2.721	2.521
Canada \$	2.227	2.077	10.45	9.89
Cyprus Cyp	0.761	0.698	249.00	230.50
Denmark Kr	8.50	8.10	7.47	6.87
Finland Mk	7.81	6.96	206.00	180.25
France Fr	8.25	7.60	10.84	10.04
Germany Dm	2.47	2.28	2.02	1.84
Greece Dr	384	359	13770	12470
Hong Kong \$	12.65	11.85	1.650	1.580
Iceland Isk	113	83		
Ireland P	1.01	0.93		
Israel Shk	5.32	4.87		

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as accepted by Barclays Bank. Different rates for travellers' cheques. Rates at close of trading yesterday.



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IVAN THE TECHIE

MAM to s Cairn rig

Market disenchantment with ICI grows □ Somerfield priced to go □ High Court rules on Leeds takeover

Sheep that lost its way

LAZY journalists have always referred to ICI as the bellwether of the British economy. Few ever knew where the metaphor came from — the bellwether is the leader of a flock of sheep, onto whom a bell is hung to indicate which way the flock is heading. Fewer still could spell it. But ICI hung up its bell several years ago and has since travelled a long way from the rest of the flock.

That journey began with the split three years ago into a pure chemicals business and Zeneca, the pharmaceuticals side. Commodities businesses such as pure chemicals ride up and down with world trade tides and more often than not find themselves washed up on the shore.

If the world economy is booming, there is a shortage of bulk commodities and prices rocket. By the time new factories are on stream, demand has peaked. The only way to cope with collapsing prices is to cut jobs and make factories more efficient, while closing the most outdated ones. This takes capacity out of the market just in time for the next upturn, and production cannot cope. So prices rocket.

ICI has tried to fight its way out of this trap, concentrating on growing Asian economies and building plastics plants in Pakistan, Taiwan and, possibly, China. There have been grand promises made about the poten-

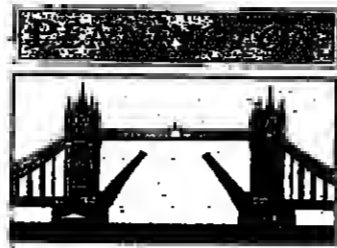
tial of these markets — or at least until prices collapsed. The reasons, predictably, include a glut of polyester fibre as other new plants come on stream.

Yesterday's job losses are an acceleration of a scheme, named in grand corporate-speak Value Gap and announced in February, to cope with these more difficult conditions. ICI's saving grace, short-term, is the dividend for this year. Longer-term there is the chance, raised again yesterday, that the group will lessen its dependence on commodities by selling some of the bulk chemicals businesses, staying with paints and speciality materials which are less dependent on the chemicals cycle. But this, in terms of unlocking hidden value, would be a long way from a Demerger 2, and there is the little problem of finding a buyer at this stage in that cycle.

ICI's half-way figures were always going to be awful, but the market is now thoroughly disenchanting with the shares. In April it seemed as if they might breast the £10 tape; they closed last night at 763p, with analysts putting a floor of 750p on the price only because of the dividend yield.

Also mitigating against disposals is the fact that ICI does not need the cash — indeed, the group could raise up to £2.5 billion of fresh capital if it could find anything to spend the money on. At times like these, analysts' minds turn to share buy-backs. A distant prospect, but ICI would be following a path already well trodden by Britain plc. No longer the bellwether, more of a stray sheep lagging well behind the rest of the flock.

AS students and other deserving poor have long known, there are some excellent bargains to be found among the perishables at the big supermarkets if one is prepared to wait until just before closing time. Somerfield shares, some analysts have suggested, are the ultimate perishable, because the chain's future as an



as an independent entity looks short. As the clock ticked away towards the end of the offer period and the City remained snail, the reduced price tags duly appeared.

The shares, going for 180p to 190p initially, ended at a bargain-basement price of 145p. This represents a forward earnings multiple of 6.5, about half that enjoyed by J Sainsbury, and a generous prospective yield of 9 per cent. With hindsight, it is not clear what else the board and its advisers could have done. They were the ultimate forced sellers. The City was not taken by prospects for a business that competed with rivals such as Sainsbury and Tesco. But Somerfield needed to float if the

banks were to get their money out. That need was reinforced by the huge rewards to directors of a successful stock market entry.

The first price tag of £540 to £570 million would have been used to repay Somerfield's debt, with some over to pay off a fraction of the far heavier borrowings of Isosceles, the vehicle for an earlier buyout and current owner of Somerfield. The price was cut once and that slim repayment to Isosceles was slimmed even further. Last night's final reduction probably wipes it out entirely, except what extra debt Somerfield can take on after flotation.

The alternative, staying private, did not offer much chance of paying off anyone's debt. The chain is not valuable enough to be broken up and sold to various retailers, because many of the individual shops would not have found buyers.

Predictably the City, having forced the price down to a level that suggests the only way the shares can go is up, was piling in last night. Advisers to Somerfield were feeling bitter. But this is the second time the company, in one

guise or another, had looked at a float, and it had to happen now. There would have been no third time lucky.

A game of two bids

YOU are a director and large shareholder in Leeds United Football Club. You receive two serious offers to buy the club from public companies. Do you accept the one that promises £12 million for buying new players? Or take the other, promising £15 million for the team?

If your answer is the latter, you are not acting in the interests of football and deserve no protection in the High Court. That is why the wonderfully named Mr Justice Rattle threw out the attempt by Peter Gilman, the Leeds deputy chairman, to stop media minknow Caspian's £16.5 million purchase of Leeds. While Mr Gilman's legal case might not have held water, one has to wonder why Leslie Silver, the outgoing Leeds chairman, and Bill Fotherby, incoming Leeds chairman, are so keen on Cas-

pian's bid. After all, Leeds hired NM Rothschild, the merchant bank, which promptly advised that a rival £20 million offer from Conrad was more attractive. But instead both Mr Fotherby and Mr Silver stand to lose £1 million apiece by going with Caspian.

In fighting Mr Gilman, Caspian managed to issue a circular which contradicts its listing particulars, a press release which contradicts its circular and redevelopment plans for land Leeds does not even own. Yet it looks like walking away with one of the Premier League's leading teams at a price that is less than a twelfth of the current value of Manchester United. Caspian is perpetrating daylight robbery. And now Mr Gilman's legal case has been thrown out, it looks like no one can stop it. Funny game, football.

Carpet-bagger

THE original carpet-baggers, long before the term was attached to greedy queues outside building societies, were northern US politicians foisted on the defeated Confederacy, to the disgust of local voters. How apt the epithet seems for Brandon Gough, Kent resident newly elected to the chair of Yorkshire Water. At yesterday's rowdy annual meeting Mr Gough was equally welcomed by the locals.

Takeover bid for Suter confirmed

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUTER, the engineering company, yesterday confirmed it had agreed a £275 million takeover bid from Ascot, bringing to an end the 15-year reign of David Abell, its controversial chairman.

The offer values Mr Abell's shares and warrants at £10 million. He also holds share options valued at around £300,000 and has a contract worth £700,000 if he leaves the company. No formal decision has been made on the future of the Suter directors, but only Bob Morris, deputy managing director, has been offered a position on the Ascot board.

Ascot is offering £765 in cash and 435 Ascot shares for every 1,000 Suter shares, equivalent to 225p a share. Shares in Ascot yesterday fell 24p to 334p, valuing Suter at £275 million. Shares in Suter rose 18p to close at 215p.

Ascot will take on £111 million of debt to fund the deal but said it expected to substantially reduce its borrowing by November 1998. The com-

pany will dispose of its remaining pub and hotel assets worth about £50 million. Ascot will also sell Suter's minority shareholdings and non-core businesses for between £20 and £40 million.

Howard Dyer, chairman and chief executive of Ascot, added that the company will then sell two of Suter's four main divisions which are refrigeration, speciality engineering, automotive components and chemicals. Mr Dyer said: "I do not want to be a conglomerate."

The company expects cost savings of £3 million a year from combining the two head offices, but it is not contemplating any big job losses elsewhere.

Suter will also pay an interim dividend of 3.9p for the six months ended June 30 provided the offer is declared unconditional, while Ascot said it expects to declare a final dividend of 3.9p for the nine months ending December 31.

Times, page 26

Scottish TV takes over Caledonian

By ERIC REGULY

SCOTTISH TELEVISION, the ITV company that is 20 per cent owned by the Mirror Group, agreed yesterday to buy Caledonian Publishing, owner of the *The Herald* and *Evening Times* newspapers, for £120 million in cash.

Scottish Television said the deal will create a "uniquely positioned Scottish supplier of information and entertainment" and will allow the new group to offer cross-media advertising packages. The integration of some operations such as computer services is expected to achieve annual cost savings of £3 million, though no immediate redundancies are contemplated.

The TV company said the acquisition will enhance earnings immediately, triggering a 7p rise in the shares, to 638p.

Andrew Flanagan, managing director of Scottish Television, is to replace Liam Kane as Caledonian's chief executive.

Lloyd's funds in merger

By JON ASHWORTH

TWO Lloyd's of London corporate capital funds, CLM Insurance Fund and HCG Lloyd's Investment Trust, are merging to form Corporate Insurance Fund (CIF), with underwriting capacity of £320 million.

It intends to develop a wholly-owned managing agency, while maintaining a balanced "spread" portfolio on independent syndicates. CLM has an option to buy JH Chappell (Underwriting Agencies) for a maximum consideration of £60,000.

The merger is expected to give CIF one of the lowest cost ratios of a "spread" vehicle in the Lloyd's market.

Lord Rees, CLM chairman, is to chair the enlarged group with John Morrell deputy chairman and Michael Wade chief executive. Net asset value per CLM share rose to 108.68p (96.40p) in the six months to end-June. Interim dividend is 1.5p (1.43p).

MAM to safeguard Cairn rights issue

By CARL MORTSHED

MERCURY Asset Management has agreed to sub-underwrite the whole of a £50 million rights issue by Cairn Energy at the market price. Discretionary clients of the fund management group will act as underwriters of the fund for the entire 1-for-5 share issue, priced at 280p, compared with a 281p Cairn closing price on Wednesday. The money raised will fund development of the Sangu gas field in offshore Bangladesh — estimated to contain 1 trillion cubic feet of gas. MAM, which controls 11.3 per cent of Cairn, is

sub-underwriting the share issue for a commission of 1/2 per cent, compared with normal 1 1/4 per cent. Bill Gammell, chief executive of Cairn, said: "Cairn is delighted that it has been able to raise substantial new funds in a cost efficient manner against a background of volatile equity markets." Cairn shares rose over 10 per cent to 311p on the move and the news that a subsidiary of Halliburton Group, a US oil industry contractor, is to acquire an interest in Sangu.

Times, page 26

THE JAGUAR XJ SPORT.

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STOCK MARKET

SARAH CUNNINGHAM

Award of defence orders gives new heart to shares

SHARE prices in London were bolstered yesterday by a strong Wall Street opening and the award of up to £4 billion of defence contracts to mostly British companies.



Chris Evans, right, and Kevin Turnbull, chief executive of Toad, up 13p, test their successful window security film

The FT-SE 100 index closed up 15.9 points at 3,684.7 in thin trading, having drifted back mid-session on disappointment with the Bundesbank's decision to leave German rates unchanged.

The FT-SE recovered, along with Wall Street, after IBM reported second-quarter earnings that were down 23 per cent to \$1.3 billion, but nonetheless above most forecasts.

Back in Britain, the Government decision to award the consortium led by British Aerospace the long-awaited £2 billion order to replace Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft, and to award BAE and France's Matra the £800 million contract for an air-launched cruise missile, sent BAE shares up 8p to 943p and boosted the shares of other defence companies involved.

Traders said that expectations that the orders would go to BAE have been largely discounted in the price for some months, although recent worries that the contracts would be shelved because of Treasury spending curbs have acted as a depressant.

The new aircraft will make the roll-out of new aircraft engines with systems produced by GEC and America's Boeing, and with radar made by Racal, GEC, which also won a separate £700 million contract for a new anti-tank weapon, was up 1p to 383p.

Rolls-Royce, which will supply BR710 engines, produced by the BMW-Rolls-Royce joint venture to power the BAE Nimrod 2000 aircraft.

Rolls-Royce closed 3p to 278p, while Colson's up 5p to 632p. Its FR Aviation subsidiary has been chosen by BAE to engineer existing Nimrod aircraft. It had a contract worth £100 million.

Lloyds TSB was up 9 1/2p to 338p amid of today's results and renewed hopes that it may buy the whole of Lloyds Abbey Life after the latter reported a 26 per cent jump to nearly £280 million in half-time profits on Wednesday.

Otherwise, thin volumes on the exchange were swollen by heavy trading in Bank of Scotland as investors adjusted their portfolios after BZW placed Standard Life's 3p

rent forecasts. Tony Shire of BZW raised his forecast for full-year pre-tax profits to £52 million, up £10 million. Do it All boosted like-for-like sales by 8.4 per cent in the period. Body Shop shares also rose in Boots' wake to close up 1p at 193p.

On AIM, Toad, whose chairman is Chris Evans, was up 13p to 91p on the announcement it has secured a major contract with Volkswagen, which is to market one of its products, a security film for windows, as an approved accessory for the UK.

British Gas was up 2p to 193 1/2p in heavy volumes on two items of news. One was a contract to sell 20 billion cubic metres of natural gas over ten years to Wings of Kassel, Germany. The second was confirmation that it has issued a £1 billion writ against the Department of Trade and Industry claiming repayment of sums paid as gas levy.

Shares in Christiania Salvesen, the transport company, shot up 60p to 349p after it confirmed that it had received an approach from Hays, the business services group. Hays fell 2p to 414p.

Reuters slid 7p to 686p after falling 25p on Wednesday. Traders said doubts about the company's ability to maintain its very high rating emerged after cautious comments from the management at half-time on Wednesday.

Shares in WS Atkins, the civil engineering consultancy, set a premium on their first day of trading. The shares were floated at 25p and ended at 22p, valuing the company at £197.8 million.

CIIL ED CED: Bond prices closed largely unchanged after a dip during the day on the back of a smaller than expected coverage of the long gilt auction. Prices later recovered in line with rising German and US markets.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt finished unchanged at 106 3/8 in active trade of 57,000 contracts.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was up 1/4 at 98 1/2 while at the shorter end Treasury 8 to 10 per cent 2000 was down 1/4 to 103 1/2.

NEW YORK: Strong earnings news from IBM helped to renew interest in shares on Wall Street and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 56.22 points higher at 5,410.91.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 5410.91 (+56.22) S&P Composite 631.98 (+5.33)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 2083.84 (+25.81) Hang Seng 10706.97 (+17.11)

Hong Kong: EOE Index 523.61 (+0.81) AD 2115.1 (+2.0)

Frankfurt: DAX 2465.00 (+17.28) Straits 2127.38 (+7.75)

Brussels: General 9195.70 (+45.09) Paris: CAC-40 1974.67 (+20.57)

Zurich: SKA Gen 742.90 (+10.03) London: FT 30 2704.9 (+12.1)

RECENT ISSUES: Alzyme 48 ... Allied Carpets 232 + 2 Alumax 1909p + 0.3%

RIGHTS ISSUES: Greene King n/p (545) 42 + 6 Old English n/p (100) 16

MAJOR CHANGES: RISES: Admiral 295p (+30p) Suter 215p (+19p)

FALLS: Hunting 120p (-9p) BCI 781p (-47p) Abbey Nil 549p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 29

TEMPUS Little logic in logistics

IF Christian Salvesen's board are looking for guidance over the next few weeks, they could do worse than ask John Clark, the former chief executive of BET, the services group that recently succumbed to a bid from Rentokil.

Hays has yet to launch a bid for Salvesen. Yet there are some similarities in the circumstances of both sets of companies and the comparisons to be drawn are not flattering for either Hays or Salvesen.

The latter company was yesterday pouring large buckets of cold water on the thought that a deal might be agreed with Hays. However, Salvesen, like the unfortunate BET, has been living under a cloud. Its share price has performed in dismal fashion, scarcely breaching 290p for the last three years.

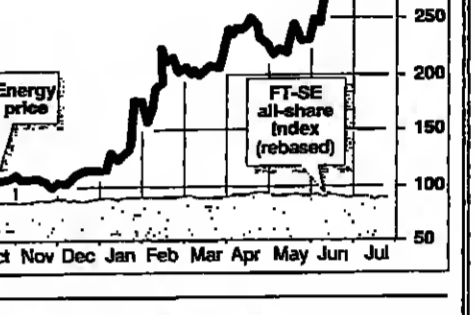
For Hays, which also owns a logistics business, the question must be why it seeks to increase its presence in such a poor market. The takeover, which could cost Hays £1 billion at yesterday's market prices, would be the second largest logistics group to be taken over in the UK, after Rentokil.

Hays reckons the real prize is in Europe but few distribution groups have made a success of that market and investors are hoping for more developments in specialist distribution in the UK, not megabids. As with Rentokil, there must be the suspicion that Hays is seeking a big deal to propel a growth rate that threatened to slow.

Cairn Energy

CAIRN Energy has found its sugar daddy and, contrary to earlier market speculation, it is Mobil, not Shell, that has decided to take a 25 per cent stake in Cairn's Bangladeshi gas field.

THE RIGHTS WAY



In truth, it was not a difficult decision for MAM. Over the past year, the fund manager has seen its investment in Cairn triple in value and prospects still look good for Cairn in Bangladesh.

DO NOT be surprised if BT goes knocking on the door of Cable and Wireless again. Citing irreconcilable differences, the two companies ended their merger negotiations in May and decided to pursue independent strategies.

BT's quarterly results only reinforce the perception that British Telecom's turnover by £130 million and international call revenue and growth are on the wane. The situation will only get worse when the Government awards a flurry of new overseas call licenses later this year.

lion cubic feet. Cairn's production sharing contract with the government of Bangladesh gives it 50 per cent of the profit oil and a gas price not far from current prices for North Sea gas.

In volunteering to act as insurer for the entire fundraising at less than half the normal rate, MAM will have saved Cairn about £400,000 in underwriting fees—a significant sum for a small oil company.

Success will quickly reduce Ascot's ability to quickly reduce borrowings of £111 million. Ascot has done well so far auctioning its own businesses but the company's ability to get good prices for both its remaining assets and the non-core BTU businesses cannot be taken for granted by investors.

British Telecom

be foolish to expect it to reverse BT's fortunes. The mobile phone market is at the verge of a price war and it is only a matter of time before Ofcom takes an interest in the pricing structure and restrictive trade practices of mobile phone companies, including the absence of phone-number portability.

Suter

SHAREHOLDERS in Suter, the engineering company, are probably feeling some relief that Ascot has provided them with the chance to es-

Table with sections: BRITISH AEROSPACE CONTRACTS BOOST SHARES, LONDON COMMODITIES, LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES, DOLLAR RATES, WALL STREET, and LIFE OPTIONS.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY Mr Mercedes bows out... There were... Tin box estate... Fountainhead...

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Mr Merseyside bows out

JOHN MOORES, eldest son of Sir John Moores, founder of the Littlewoods Organisation, is retiring from the board after 50 years with the company.

AFTER a tense legal battle, the whistle has been blown, and Caspian, the media publishing group, has emerged as the winner in its pre-season "unfriendly" for Leeds United.

Creswell's rules

DAVID CRESWELL may not be a well-known name outside City circles, but millions of investors have reason to be grateful to him.



"There weren't many other applicants"

Tin box estate

ROCKETER Estate, home of the founder of Metal Box Company, is for sale at £975,000.

Fountainhead

FIDELITY Investments, located in a lavish 31-acre estate in Kent, is forking out a fortune for a huge revolving fountain.

MORAG PRESTON



British Gas's application relates to the first generation North Sea gas fields, in which development started in the 1960s and the early 1970s

Pressure rises as British Gas puts Government in the dock

Christine Buckley examines the issues behind the £1 billion writ and weighs up the implications

WRITs are stacking up in the gas industry. No fewer than 28 were issued yesterday as British Gas dropped the bombshell that it wanted £1 billion - plus interest - back from the Government for tax over-payment.

At issue is the levy exercised on gas by the Government and contract law. But the weightier context of the surprise move by the company is British Gas's obligations to buy a large quantity of gas at prices higher than it can sell it for.

The Department of Trade and Industry thinks British Gas has got its tax law muddled. But should the company be proved right, the DTI has issued 27 parallel writs to the one it received from British Gas.

The argument revolves around the tax paid on gas - the Gas Levy - which currently delivers to the Chancellor of the Exchequer 4p a therm when gas arrives from offshore fields at the beach.

That someone has to pay the levy is not in doubt. But what is now in doubt is whether, in some of the contracts involving British Gas it should be the gas producers rather than the com-

pany. Already gas producers pay the levy under some arrangements where the gas is bought other than under specified contracts.

British Gas's tax demand relates to about a third of its North Sea contracts - some of its oldest arrangements with fields that began their development in the 1960s - and its legal arguments hinge on those contracts having gone through sufficient changes to invalidate the gas levy.

The 24 contracts relating to eight fields all pre-date 1975 which is when the Petroleum Revenue Tax was enforced by a government keen to tap benefits from the rapidly expanding oil fields at the value of oil climbed. The Gas Levy was subsequently introduced in 1981 to tax gas which had been exempted from the Petroleum Revenue Tax - that is those fields already producing gas before 1975.

It was condemned by some as a windfall tax to capture parts of the industry which had escaped the Petroleum Revenue Tax. Any agreement that British Gas felt at the time is likely to be exacerbated by the fact that gas prices have plunged and it is locked into buying the fuel at prices way above the market rate. It is effectively now paying a windfall tax on contracts from which it is bleeding a great deal of money.

British Gas and the DTI will now thrash out the legal arguments. If British Gas serves the writ on the Government, the DTI will bounce its parallel actions on the gas producers, which include Shell, BP, Amerada Hess, Lasso and Enterprise.

Arrangements drawn up between British Gas and gas producers on first generation fields have evolved in relation to the changing structure of energy taxation and in relation to the varying geographies of the fields themselves. The contracts in principle cover the development of the field for the duration of its life. But the development of the field is something that cannot be anticipated with absolute accuracy at the onset of the contract. It is the degree to which the evolution of the fields affect tax legislation on which British Gas is arguing its legal case.



British Gas is reluctant to expand on its legal application, but it is likely to involve the amount of tax it has paid on fields that have developed beyond the company's wishes or needs and from which excess gas has been sold to other gas buyers. Under arrangements such as these, the producer would be required to pay part of the levy relating to the field which it would then seek to

recover from its additional customer or customers. The highly technical nature of taxation application according to material changes in contracts is the subject of regular negotiations by corporate lawyers.

What makes yesterday's action by British Gas stand out is the huge sum involved in the one-off unprecedented writ against the DTI.

British Gas has paid more than £5.6 billion under the Gas Levy since its introduction. Under legal constraints, exerted by the Limitation Act, British Gas is acting to recover tax paid over the past ten years. Its legal advice has indicated that in order to initiate legal action it must move within six years of the Royal Assent of the Finance Act. The sixth anniversary is today.

Quite simply, companies have found that it difficult to pass on price rises in a low inflation environment. When consumers are not enjoying hefty annual wage rises they are reluctant to spend any more than they have to on items such as food and drink.

The food retailing sector has suffered particularly heavily because of the inability to pass on costs to the consumer. Companies are unable to grow their way out of trouble. They have to concentrate on winning new customers from rivals. This has resulted in fierce price cutting, causing margins to fall about 13 per cent in the past three years.

The sector has repeatedly tried to break the vicious cycle of price wars by emphasising the benefits to consumers of improved service and loyalty cards, but until now consumer resistance to increased prices has remained solid. The drinks

sector faces a similar conundrum. In the Eighties, the sector boomed as aspirational-led marketing campaigns were used to persuade consumers to drink ever more expensive spirits. But after the collapse in consumer confidence, the industry has found it almost impossible to force through any price rises.

The drinks sector has underperformed the FT-SE 100 for the past three years and even former blue-chip stocks have been forced to think the unthinkable in attempts to break the cycle - in the case of Guinness pondering but rejecting a £13 billion takeover of Grand Metropolitan. But Allied Domecq has probably been hurt most in recent years, suffering a 21 per cent fall in full-year profits after it managed to force through only a below inflation 1 per cent rise on its spirits. Housebuilders have also struggled as the lack of house price inflation has discouraged buyers. The builders have found it impossible to increase prices in line with rising costs and heavy discounting has again hurt margins. Inflation also underpins balance sheet values, making the company's financially buoyant even in years that sales are limited. The result has been a huge consolidation within the industry, with some major companies being bought out of altogether.

Yearning for just a small touch of inflation

Alasdair Murray detects a mood of nostalgia in some companies

INFLATION is bad for business, or so the economic orthodoxy of the past two decades has maintained. Businesses need a low inflation environment so that they can plan without throwing medium-term investment and pricing strategies into financial turmoil.

The UK is enjoying one of the longest periods of low inflation in recent memory, with the headline retail price index index falling last month to just 2.1 per cent.

Surprisingly, however, not every company is entirely happy with this apparent breakthrough. It may be only a quiet murmur at present, tucked away in the fine print of a trading statement or made as an aside at an interview, but if you listen carefully you can definitely hear the distinct sound of nostalgia for the high inflation days of the last decade. This nostalgia is

also most prominent among retailers who have struggled for the lack of house price inflation has discouraged buyers. The builders have found it impossible to increase prices in line with rising costs and heavy discounting has again hurt margins. Inflation also underpins balance sheet values, making the company's financially buoyant even in years that sales are limited. The result has been a huge consolidation within the industry, with some major companies being bought out of altogether.

Property developers have also been hit because the current low rents make new developments unattractive. Lack of inflation of net asset values has made the companies a less attractive investment for institutions seeking a hedge fund.

A small dose of inflation would almost certainly do wonders for the spirits of long-suffering directors at companies hit by low inflation. Many consumers would also appreciate a return to less fiscally strict times.

But for the older section of the population, asset and savings heavy, inflation is a nightmare, wiping out years of work in an instant. With the international markets and an increasingly large section of the voting population dead set against a return of inflation, the inflation-loving sector of British industry realises it will have to find a new trick to restore decimated balance sheets.



Price wars flared

Leaseholders gain fresh rights but who will fund the Bill?

John Gummer and his environment ministers may hope they have silenced, at least temporarily, the clamour for leasehold reform. Pages of closely typed amendments and clauses intended to improve protection for leaseholders passed into law this week as the Housing Bill became an Act.

But the Act is almost certainly just the start of a bitter spending battle between the Department of the Environment, in implementing the reforms, and the Treasury, which will fight tooth and nail not to spend an extra penny of public money.

Leasehold reform has been high on the political agenda, this year as the Government struggled to satisfy demands for reform, after widespread evidence of abuse by rogue landlords. Flatowners found themselves on the end of unreasonably large bills for management and repairs. Demands for explanations were met with silence or intimidation. Refusals to pay were met with threats of forfeiture of the lease and thus loss of the home. Freeholds changed hands at auction overnight without leaseholders' knowledge. In spite of rules which gave leaseholders first right of refusal, it was obvious that existing rules were being flouted with impunity.

The Act gives leaseholders new rights to challenge service charges without the prospect of forfeiture and to replace incompetent landlords with independent managers. It also provides for strengthened rights for leaseholders to buy the freehold of their property and the



John Gummer needs the money to pay for tribunals

prospect of cheaper access to justice in landlord/tenant disputes through Leasehold Valuation Tribunals. Even the Government's critics, including the Labour Party and campaigners for leasehold reform, welcome many of the changes although they argue that they do not go far enough. The centrepiece of the latest reforms is the establishment of Leasehold Valuation Tribunals to handle service charge disputes and the appointment of managers to take over if necessary from incompetent landlords. This, ministers argue, would solve one of the most glaring defects of the existing system. At present, disputes between tenants and landlords can only be resolved in the county court, with tenants run-

ning the risk of incurring large legal costs from landlords equipped with expensive lawyers. Not surprisingly, few leaseholders have been prepared to take this risk. The tribunals will charge a flat fee of £50 per application, so leaseholders can share the cost if they apply jointly. Tribunals will not award costs to either side (but there is nothing to stop landlords reclaiming their costs through service charges if leases allow this). The Government expects a large increase in the number of challenges to landlords when the cheaper system starts. If there is to be a large increase in demand for LVT hearings, many more tribunals will be needed. In

London, for example, the LVT network is so clogged that people are waiting six months for a hearing and four months for a result, according to the Leasehold Enfranchisement Advisory Service.

So where is the money coming from to fund the increased network? The answer is from existing stretched Environment Department budgets, unless the department can prise more money out of the Treasury in the next public expenditure round.

Because of the Treasury's reluctance to spend money, the Government tried to pass the full cost on to the leaseholders. But such was the outcry that it was forced to compromise. The £50 fee still does not satisfy critics who argue that the cost should be no more than that for the county court, a maximum of about £120. The Campaign Against Residential Leasehold Abuse (CARLA) described the £50 charge as outrageous.

The figure was accepted by both Houses of Parliament just hours before the Housing Act found its way on to the statute books. But now the gap between payment and cost of LVTs has to be bridged somehow by the public purse, as does the cost of funding extra tribunals. A consultation paper is being drawn up.

Many are in no doubt that extra money will have to be found to make the proposed system work. Or the clamour for further reform will start up again louder than ever.

SARA MCCONNELL

Advertisement for ELIZA TINSLEY GROUP PLC, including financial data and contact information for Albert E Sharp.

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund type and name. Columns include fund name, unit price, and percentage change.

Advertisement for 'first direct' featuring a globe and the text: 'In the time it takes to settle the kids, I can pay my bills.' Includes phone number 0800 24 24 24.

Vertical advertisement for 'THE TIMES' newspaper, featuring the masthead and various promotional messages.

Shares close near the day's highs

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices categorized by industry: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING & CONSTRUCT, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, DISTRIBUTORS, DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MINING, OIL & GAS, OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS - FOOD, RETAILERS - GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TEXTILES & APPAREL, TRANSPORT, WATER.

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Ascot. July 27th. This summer's essential meeting... Come to Ascot on Saturday 27th July and celebrate the 25th Anniversary of one of the summer's most prestigious and glittering racing occasions. De Beers Diamond Day. The unique partnership between Ascot and De Beers is the only one of its kind in the world. The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Commemorative 25th Anniversary. In prize money - it is a thrilling highlight of the season. Opening prices are just £15 for the Grandstand & Paddock, and £25 for a Day Member's Badge, and includes bookings for the Grandstand at a discount of 10% + 25%. Please note to secure your place. Tickets are non-refundable.

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THEATRE 1

War, lechery and cynicism: *Troilus and Cressida* is given a bold new treatment by the RSC

THEATRE 2

Loose Restoration: *Rogues to Riches* brings unsophisticated silliness to a Farquhar comedy

THE TIMES ARTS

MUSIC

Mark Elder conducts the Proms premiere of Bax's *Spring Fire*, written over 80 years ago

TOMORROW

Gospel truth: the music of the Deep South is big business, and Kirk Franklin is the biggest name

THEATRE: The Bard in cynical mood; Farquhar with the sting removed; a mixed bag at a Polish drama festival

The love of war in a lust cause

The ravished Helen, Menelaus's queen, with wanton Paris sleeps — "and that's the quarrel!" — wails Richard McCabe's Thersites in his best believe-it-or-not voice at the opening of Ian Judge's production. A glance at the text confirms that the words actually belong to Proteus, but it would be ungrateful to complain of their hijacking when the speaker is in every sense giving the performance of the evening. With his pale, bloated face, lank hair and awful ingratiating smirk, his Thersites is part depraved clown, part gloating chorus and, when he assures us that all is war and lechery, very much the voice of Shakespeare's most cynically modern play.

Troilus and Cressida RSC, Stratford

But Fiennes introduces so much adolescent throb and romantic sob into his performance that you feel he is playing Romeo in his whingeing Rosaline period rather than the Troilus whom Philip Voss's fine Ulysses calls a true knight and second Hector, as "firm of word" as of deed.

Still, he has his vivid moments, as does that brilliantly precocious young actress, Victoria Hamilton. In Troy her Cressida is bright, pert, sweet, with a slight undertow of melancholy and, when she is wrested from Troilus and handed to the Greeks, she is clearly a shaken, disoriented girl. But is this enough to explain her sexual defection? Is Ulysses merely voicing 9th-century sexism when he says that "her wanton spirits look out at every joint and motive of her body"? Hamilton has the quick intelligence of the survivor, but nothing much is peering from her ankles and elbows, least of all wantonness.

Still, there are plenty of other characters to justify Shakespeare's scepticism about love, heroism and the whole damned thing. Clive Francis's Pandarus slithers and undulates about, looking as if he has wandered in from *The Mikado* but exuding sleaze with terrific relish.

Ray Fearon's Paris and Katia Caballero's Helen seem less a golden than a gilded couple, down to the weird glittering crewcut that substitutes for his hair. They saunter onstage in their bangles, proceed not only to pioneer French kissing but to rehearse a few holds from the *Kamasutra*, and depart as serenely as celebrities from a movie premiere in Beverly Hills. And it is for this pair that Greeks and Trojans are dying. There, as elsewhere, Judge has made the Bard's point for him.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Puppy love: Joseph Fiennes as Troilus and the "brilliantly precocious" Victoria Hamilton as Cressida — too much "adolescent throb and romantic sob" in their affair

Gloomy, but rarely dull

Midway between Warsaw and Gdansk, protected by its red-brick walls on the far bank of the Vistula, the city of Torun has managed to survive wars, sieges, partitions and other horrors of the past five centuries with most of its ancient buildings intact. Copernicus was born here and gingerbread has been made for 200 years in the shop opposite the cathedral, to be carried away in bright orange bags by travellers and school-children.

Kontakt Festival Torun, Poland

Since the change of regime in 1989, summer visitors have also been able to take away impressions of international theatre from the Kontakt Festival organised annually by Krystyna Meissner, director of the city's Wilam Horzyca Theatre. The quality of this year's 17 productions, mostly from the former Eastern bloc, proved as varied as the venues (theatres, sports halls, a converted church, a railway station), but there was no doubt in the minds of the international jury that the first prize should go to the Berlin Volksbühne's *Murx den Europäer*.

Christian Marthaler's "patriotic evening" came to London last year as part of the London International Festival of Theatre, where some critics dismissed it as the acme of boredom because the 11 characters appear to do little more than sit patiently at tables in a vast office where no work is done, bleakly speaking trivial thoughts and coming together only in the amazing moments of song.

Music is the narrator. Into the few moments of each song's duration — pop song, patriotic hymn, Schubert reverie — is compressed the pain of 40 years of wasted life. For these are citizens of the former East Germany, their hopes dashed, their state a failure of history. Marthaler is a German Swiss, and perhaps only someone with an outsider's viewpoint could have found, so soon after unification, a theatrical metaphor with such power to convey the experience of waiting for nothing.

Estonia's Tallinna Linna-teater staged *Pianola*, quarried from Chekhov's first extant play, untitled but known in this country as *Platonov* or *Wild Honey*. Productions strong on text test our capacity to evaluate when the language is very foreign, but Elmo Nüganen's superbly acted production (he also played Platonov) introduced several intriguing ways of positioning an audience to the play.

The most obvious, but nonetheless unusual, was to rotate the theatre through 90 degrees during the interval and give the audience, which is on stage with the actors, an altered viewpoint. But during recent renovations at the Linna-teater several forgotten rooms and

passages were discovered behind the stage, and Nüganen decided to use them (and reproduce them in Torun) for his production.

During the after-show discussion, where on some nights the criticism is crisply uninhibited, he compared what he had created to "a black box with many camera eyes". A rare sense of a play's status as offering only a fragment of the life of its characters emerged from the glimpes we caught of meals, arguments and domestic activity occurring through doorways and under arches. Oh, and everything was set inside a mechanical piano — a piano.

More vistas opened up in Piotr Fomienko's staging of Ola Mukhina's *Tania-Tania*, best described as a Gorkyish fantasy set in 1936. One of the three talented and beautiful actresses opened a door at the back of the stage and ran out into the busy square.

From further across Siberia came a Muslim version of the story of Joseph and his brothers, performed by a company from Tachikistan overfond of what Giles Havergal used to call "ears on stalks" acting. I preferred in the *Godforsaken Land* from even further east, the gulag territory of Yakutsk: a mesmerisingly slow account of survival at the lowest depths of existence.

For Krystina Lupa's *Tear Polski* in Wrocław (to which the audience was transported by coach) the vistas were already provided by the arches and platforms of a disused station in the heart of the city, converted by the company when its own theatre burnt down.

Here we were shown Immanuel Kant, a puzzler of a play by Thomas Bernhard, in which the philosopher is imagined crossing the Atlantic with his wife, servant and attentive parrot, in the company of a millionaire who wants to raise the *Titanic*.

Behind the main actors, nameless others could be seen, dancing and squabbling in counterpoint, while beyond these, glimpsed through windows, tableaux representing (so I guess) Kant's fears whizzed past on floats. It was fascinating to look at but baffling for someone ignorant of Kant's thought and his possible fondness for caged birds. Everyone I spoke to, young or old, knew all about Kant and kept asking what British plays asked questions about how to live and how best to restore the equilibrium of the universe. I did not have any answers.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Not really naughty and much too nice

Another Restoration comedy gets rough handling, rejigged as a musical. Three summers ago, Last Circa 1661 crudely attempted to pump up Wechley's *The Country Wife* for the West End. That was a sorry flop. Now, arriving from America, *Rogues to Riches* proves little better. Robert Sevr's book is very loosely based on Farquhar's sharp

comedy *The Beaux' Stratagem*. Wendy Toye's production offers too much unsophisticated silliness jazzed up with loud colours and a mishmash of periwigs and 1950s quilts. The fundamental story survives, Aimwell and Archer (Robin Hart and Anthony Drewe), two roving gents who have squandered their fortunes on the pleasures of

Rogues to Riches Watmill, Newbury

London, hole up in Lichfield. Incognito as master and servant, they make a bedline for the finest local skirts with purses attached.

Someone, however, has been messing with the plot. We now have a spacious masked ball and pointless escapade with highwaymen and ladies disguised as monks. Fragments of Farquhar's script survive but amid new chat that waters down his colourful language and wit. More irksome, the songs, scored by Lynn Criger, though tuneful and varied, are flashily sentimental compared to Farquhar's cynical spirit. We lose his radical "happy" ending where lovers danced to celebrate a divorce settlement.

As well, the company at least are cheery. They harmonise with aplomb and gusto, refreshingly accompanied only by a piano and cello. Peter Moreton makes an entertainingly hopeless highwayman, blundering around eagerly but with a scared-stiff stare. Jacqueline Charlesworth's giggling chambermaid has pleasing bounce. She kicks off with an amusing mock aria, moaning about the boredom of this pastoral idyll, lyrics that could have been written for the serenely scenic *Watermill*.

The major hitch is that our rakish heroes are damnably low on naughty spark. Hart's Aimwell grins handsomely but at nothing in particular. Drewe's Archer brings out none of the jokes about a flamboyantly snave chap concealed in a lackey's livery. Still, he does rise to some smoothie swankiness when

ticking ladies' fancies. There are also moments of irresistible ridiculousness with absurdly tame sword fights casually conducted with one hand through side doors.

A trio of friars also sidlekick their way through the drinking song, chorusing (hallo-luh) to love and ale.

KATE BASSETT



Losing the plot Sarah Jane Hassell and Robin Hart in Robert Sevr's Restoration musical, *Rogues to Riches*

CONCERTS: Arnold Bax makes a belated debut at the Albert Hall; plus a contemporary tangent in Chester

Spring comes late to the Proms

BBC SO/Elder Albert Hall/Radio 3

of *Spring* year — it was not premiered until 1970, long after its composer's death. Conceived on a symphonic scale in five interconnected movements, it was first considered difficult: its sensuous scoring does make big demands on a large orchestra. But much of the musical interest is in the orchestration — no pulsating Stravinskian

rhythms to conjure up pagan orgies, only an infinite variety of instrumental colouring. Bax can sound patchy, but not when performances have the fervent intensity Elder brought to the music here. With equal care and passion he evoked the dark, enchanted woods of the opening, the rapturous love music of the fourth movement, and the final, frenzied appearance of Bacchus's attendants. Elder gave a no less loving performance of Dvořák's concert overture *In Nature's Realm*: a

more earthy view of nature in a work that applies symphonic logic to spirited, spontaneous-sounding themes.

The theme of nature had been developed before the interval, not least in the Venusberg music from *Tannhäuser*; but as bacchanals go, this one was too well-behaved. At least the women of the Trinity College of Music Chamber Choir sang alluringly as sirens. Even in Wagner, Elder is worth hearing, but it was a pity that, having shaped a dark, soft-

grained opening and coaxed very precise playing, he failed to maintain the magic.

The evening's big disappointment was Christine Brewer's singing of the Four

Last Songs. With her sumptuous tone and substantial soprano she is probably as good in Strauss as anything. But she poured out vocalise that robbed the songs of their deep expressiveness. The laboured accompaniments did not help.

JOHN ALLISON

Reflecting history, not repeating it

Psappha Chester

to know that Robin Holloway's *Fantasy Pieces*, Op 16, are abundant in romantic echoes of Schumann's *Heine Liederkreis*, Op 24.

So, in spite of every best intention, more than half of the not very many people there had already thought about the legitimacy of Holloway's inspiration in *Fantasy Pieces*. The convincing moment — as Christopher Gayford's inter-

pretation with Psappha confirmed — is the third movement, which is moving, not by means of allusions to Schumann melody or harmony, but by means of a passionate and sustained development of a mere accompaniment figure. Long before that point, in fact, nostalgia has been converted into a new, intensely personal experience.

Although the background is rarely so prominently presented as foreground material, much new music is projected on to an existing image. The images behind Piers Hella-

well's *Shme Carvings from the Ice Wall* are primitive musical idioms and sculptural shapes, producing a series of rhythmically provocative little pieces. Meanwhile, if John Cooney's image of an oboe striving to free itself from entanglement with a string quartet is not what actually emerges in his *Taking Liberties*, there is no doubt about the dramatic impact of musical events derived from the Book of Daniel in Sally Beamish's *Into the Furnace*.

GERALD LARNER

Advertisement for the musical Tommy at Shaftesbury Theatre. Text includes: "NOW BOOKING TO 11 JANUARY 1997", "COMPLETELY REDEFINES MODERN MUSICAL STAGING", "SCALP-TINGLING", and contact information: 0171 379 5399 • 0171 413 3588. Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2.

Advertisement for a MINI car. Features a stylized graphic of a car with the word 'MINI' below it.

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off. Visible text includes "Dead inspired", "JAZZ ALBUMS", and "Pisto".

150



POP 1
Talented, Irish and 24, Sinéad Lohan presses at the limits of the folk singer's art



POP 2
The Sex Pistols' Finsbury Park comeback is released on CD — and proves to be good stuff

THE TIMES ARTS



POP 3
Irish newcomers, The Frames DC, scale the peaks of "blind love and black poetry" on a new album



POP 4
At the age of 51, Jimmie Dale Gilmore emerges as an unlikely cult hero for the Nineties

Alan Jackson makes the mistake of congratulating singer Sinéad Lohan on the excellence of her debut folk album

JAZZ ALBUMS

Dead inspired

DAVID MURRAY OCTET
Dark Star — the Music of the Grateful Dead (Asior Place TCD 4002)
ALTHOUGH the juxtaposition of one of America's most highly regarded contemporary jazz saxophonists with a band epitomising hippiedom at its most unreconstructed might seem anomalous, David Murray's association with the Dead is based on a genuine appreciation of their music and thorough approval of their improvisatory spirit.
The album springs from a concert at Madison Square Gardens in September 1993 at which Murray and blues harpist James Cotton joined the rock band, and the octet's "avanti gubucket" style brings a rumbustious brio to such familiar Dead fare as *Shakedown Street*. The real meat of the album, though, lies in Murray's more adventurous arrangements of *Estimated Prophet* and — the highlight — *Dark Star*, which combines swirling free jazz with a suitably dreamy, discursive trumpet improvisation on the plaintive psychedelic anthem.

JIM MULLEN
We Go Back (EFZ 1018)
GLASWEGIAN guitarist Jim Mullen is still best known for his 1970s fusion work but, as his faultless playing on this album attests, he is, at heart, a superb straight-ahead jazz musician.
We Go Back collects some of Mullen's favourite tunes from his 30-year career, intersperses them with a number of jaunty originals, and feeds them through his own neat but eloquent, thumb-picked, single-note style.
Impeccably supported by pianist Gareth Williams, bassist Mick Hutton and the precise yet supple drumming of Gary Husband, Mullen demonstrates that post-Hendrix pyrotechnics and electronic trickery are not the only routes to exciting contemporary guitar music.

CHRIS PARKER

OK then, who does she think she is?

Although she performs at the Cambridge Folk Festival today and tomorrow, Ireland's Sinéad Lohan bristles at any assumption that she must, therefore, be a folk singer. That her highly impressive debut album, *Who Do You Think I Am*, has been greeted as one of the best folk releases of the year, or that she has recently completed the second of two British tours supporting the American

queen of that medium, Joan Baez, is also neither here nor there. Talented, intractable and just 24 years old, she has no patience with those who would stereotype her.
"People see a female singer-songwriter with an acoustic guitar and no band and promptly pigeonhole you," she says. But while Lohan may turn out to be something very different to a folk artist, there is no denying that she has made a folk record, and a very good one at that. However, much of the responsibility — she stops short of saying "the blame" — for the fact it fits so decisively into that genre lies with its producer, Declan Sinott.

A long-time musical associate of the melodic Irish singer Mary Black, he heard Lohan singing in a small club in her home city of Cork in 1992 and made it his mission to put her quite lovely voice on record. Sinott took two-and-a-half years to shape a project that is, musically at least, almost indistinguishable from any of the polite but well-received albums he has produced for Black.
Therein lies the rub for Lohan. "I am eternally grateful to Declan for recording me in the first place," she says,

carefully, "and of course I feel he did a great job. But this LP is almost as much his as it is mine, because of the way in which his sound is stamped all over it. If I played the songs to you acoustically [she has had her own band for 18 months, and performs them live with new force as a result] you'd see that they could be pushed down any road, not just a folk one."
Whatever the rights and wrongs of their recorded state, the relative elderliness of the songs — all were written between four and six years ago — helps to explain further why Lohan is so keen to make sure a second album showcases her as her own woman. Compounding her frustration is the fact that, although *Who Do You Think I Am* was on sale in Ireland in 1994, it did not come to Britain until earlier this year, and has only just been released on the Continent. Each new territory thinks it has discovered a singer of pretty, pastoral songs, and has to be put right — firmly.
The second of four children, she says, a resolutely non-musical family, she nursed no adolescent ambition to be a singer or writer. Like most of her generation — she is now 24 — she grew up watching *Top of the Pops* not attending ceilidhs and, if drawn to anyone, preferred Sting or Paul Weller to any Irish traditionalists. But a year after leaving school, she won a place on a course that helped to prepare students for a career in the wider music industry — management, publishing rights and so on.
"It wasn't that I was gearing myself towards such a career; more that I wanted to avoid



"People see a female singer-songwriter with an acoustic guitar and pigeonhole you," says Sinéad Lohan, en route to the Cambridge Folk Festival

working, and liked the idea of something that could, potentially, make you a lot of money," she says. "Initially it covered a lot of the business side, so there was no call to sing or write at all — and I honestly didn't know I could."
"Then one day we all had to sing a song we'd written, and I thought: 'Right, if they all laugh I'll pretend it's not my song at all, and I'll go down tomorrow and find out about a career in nursing.'"
"But the reaction was so positive and has continued to be." Here Lohan offers a rare smile. "Maybe I've been a little spoilt. Maybe that's where my attitude comes from."
If so, that attitude softens only infrequently. When I observe that (praise indeed) some reviewers had likened her debut collection to early Joni Mitchell, she is scathing: "It's that woman singer-songwriter with an acoustic guitar thing again. I had to go out and buy one of her records to see what they were talking about." And when I ask where she found the band that has done so much to bolster the live presentation of her songs, she is sharper still: "On the back of a cornflakes packet.

Where else? I had to send away six tokens."
But there is no rule to say that artists must also be diplomats. And, just occasionally, Lohan relaxes enough to show the music fan beneath the determinedly cool exterior. Having admitted that she felt Baez's audiences were too old to represent her own natural constituency, she recalls the moment Baez caught her singing the Bob Dylan song *To Ramona* backstage. "I've done it for a long time," Lohan says, "but deliberately wasn't including it when supporting Joan because I felt it would be tacky, what with their mutual history and all."
"Anyway, she loved it, even though it was very different to the original, and said she would be glad if I would sing it with her on stage. So every night she called me out during her set and we performed it together. It was a bit of a treat — like a direct link back to him." And she smiles at the memory.
● *Who Do You Think I Am* is released by Grapevine
● The Cambridge Folk Festival takes place today, tomorrow and Sunday. Tickets for today only available from 01223 337871

Closets not for sale

As a "music biz insider" — which I'm not — the question I get asked the most is: "Which members of the State Formerly Known as Take That are gay?" And it's not one I can answer, because I simply don't know. There are rumours that all of them are, that none of them are, two of them are, three are, one openly uses a facial steamer, and so on.
Take That carefully kept things ambiguous. They freely admitted to playing gay clubs in their early years, were seen at gay events, were unafraid to dabble in kitsch and overt gay imagery, and were generally far more enlightened about the whole matter than the press would have had it got its hands on any kind of "evidence". But still the fascination continues, and with it the whole baggage of "outing" a generation's heroes.
Over the past couple of years it has become a kind of sport to identify and out gay pop stars. Photographs are printed of stars with their "close friends"; there are reports of stars attending parties in drag, the first ten years of the Pet Shop Boys' press can be summed up in three words — "irritic" and "probably gay".
Amusingly enough, when Neil Tennant finally did come out, last year, the press

Caitlin Moran knows who pop's secret gay stars are — but then, so what?

However, as these pop stars are either in long-term, scandal-free relationships — or very discreet — the press is left without an excuse.
Outing is an obsession that's wearying, offensive, and ultimately useless. Gay pop stars have never needed outing; they're generally out for all to see. If you know how to read the signs, one near-ironic is still the subject of "is he, isn't he?" music press debates, when it's obvious that he is. From album and singles titles to lyrics and in interviews, he has pulled only the thinnest of veils over his sexual orientation.
In this way the bulk of his audience, which would feel uncomfortable about being the fan of an openly homosexual artist, can go on pretending that his clearly homoerotic lyrics are about women. However, his gay fans picks up all the signals, and understands.
Another gay pop star had a big hit with a single that was obviously about the death of his lover. But if you told the majority of the people who bought it that he was gay, they'd laugh at you — or be offended. But that's cool. If you can't tell whether a pop star is gay or not, then you're a heterosexual who hasn't got any gay friends, and it's probably for the best that you don't know, anyway.

Pistols destroy all passers-by

THE SEX PISTOLS
Filthy Lucre Live (Virgin 8 41926)
OH. HOW we moaned and groaned when the Sex Pistols announced they were going to mount a reunion tour. And how we damned their gig at Finsbury Park, their first on British soil for 19 years, with faint praise. But the inescapable truth about this album, recorded live at that very show, is that it is actually very good indeed.
Presented essentially as it happened (apart from the final encore of *No Fun*, which has sensibly been discarded), *Filthy Lucre Live* documents the Finsbury Park event in a way which now sounds impossibly loud and proud. From the moment they come barreling in with *Bodies* to the final ringing chords of *Problems*, there is not a moment of slack.
That is partly a function of the limited repertoire at their disposal. There is nothing new or anything remotely resembling a ballad or slow song, and they do tend to fall back on a handful of tried and trusted musical moves.
But that takes nothing away from the tremendous conviction with which they punch through a set of songs that has acquired a mythical status during the band's absence. John Lydon/Rotten is a volcanic presence, snarling and rolling his Rs with blazing fervour, especially during *God Save the Queen* and *Satellite*, as well as slipping in handfuls of well-chosen barbs between numbers. "Got a problem with that?" he demands at the end of *Problems*. Not me, John.
On the evidence of similar recordings from the 1970s, the Sex Pistols never played as well as this the first time

POP ALBUMS: David Sinclair gladly eats his words

around. Perhaps it was the relaxed, sunny ambience of the day or the vast size of the venue that blunted the initial impact of the performance in the flesh. But as a live album this is surely destined to rank among the classics.
JIMMIE DALE GILMORE
Braver New World (Elektra 7559-61836)
A founder member of the Flatlanders, with Butch Hancock and Joe Ely, and author of the country crossover standard *Dallas*, Jimmie Dale Gilmore has languished in relative obscurity throughout a career that has been celebrated more in retrospect than as it happened. But, thanks to his two more recent albums, the 51-year-old singer from Lubbock, Texas, has emerged as an unlikely cult hero of the 1990s, winning a reputation as an authentic Southern voice which can only be enhanced by *Braver New World*.
A singer who seems to use his adenoids instead of his vocal cords, Gilmore's stringy tone will not be to everyone's taste. But while his songs and vocal delivery are steeped in the West Texas country and ballad tradition, some extraordinarily adventurous twists in the arrangements and the



Vindication: the Sex Pistols have made a classic live album

wildly idiosyncratic production by T-Bone Burnett turn this album into a journey without maps.
The fragile, pleading vocal of *There She Goes* is counterpointed by a guitar solo that blows up like a sandstorm. Blind Lemon Jefferson's *Black Snake Moan* is turned into a danky country-blues rag, and an oddly syncopated horn section vies with Jon Brion's "Bombay guitar" sound on the title track. Country purists will be dismayed, but students of mishapen American roots music will have a field day.
THE FRAMES DC
Fitzcarraldo (ZTT 0630-15622)
BRITISH bands have all but given up on that intense style of mournful and meaningful rock that comes so naturally to such American groups as Counting Crows or Pearl Jam. Not so their counterparts in Ireland, where a new wave of acts, from Scheer to Mundy, is currently hell-bent on scaling ever higher peaks of emotional "realism" in their music and lyrics.
The Frames DC yield to no one in their pursuit of the taut, drilling chord sequence, while frontman Glen Hansard is every inch a graduate of "the university of blind love and black poetry", as he puts it in *Red Chord*.
At their best, as on the recent single, *Monument*, their fervour sweeps all before it. But the combined effect of so much heavily orchestrated yearning and angst makes the album a suffocating experience overall.

ALICE IN CHAINS
Unplugged (Columbia 484300)
THEIR drug-obsessed angst has never travelled well, and Seattle heavyweights Alice in Chains are one of those bands who always seem a lot more involved with themselves on stage than with their audience. Even so, MTV's *Unplugged* formula has a way of drawing out unexpected qualities from acts otherwise prone to drown in bombast.
Unfortunately, there is little it can do here. Shorn of their Mogadon-metal guitar sound, songs such as *Angry Chair* and *Rooster* are revealed for the thin ideas that they are, and even those numbers with properly developed melodies and harmonies do not seem to hang together without the volume to shore them up.

POP SINGLE
SUEDE
Trash (Nude NUD 21)
HAS there ever been a band that has returned to active duty after a break of just 18 months to find the pop landscape so transformed? But if Suede have got to prove themselves all over again, this is as good a start as any.
Bright, confident and quietly knowing, *Trash* welds all Brett Anderson's best Bowieisms into an alternative pop package that sparkles like neon in the rain. "Just trash, me and you/It's in everything we do," he sings, with a wistful air of romantic decadence, while gracefully chiming guitar and keyboard parts drift in eerie layers through the mix.
It lacks the edge of vintage Suede, but will surely be a hit no matter what the competition can throw at it.

HMV folk selection

August

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	SHARMA, CHAURASIA <i>The Valley Recalls Vol 1</i> CD £11.99		SHARMA, CHAURASIA <i>The Valley Recalls Vol 2</i> CD £11.99
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TOP TEN ALBUMS

- Jagged Little Pill.....Alanis Morissette (Maverick)
 - The Smurfs Go Pop!.....Smurfs (EMI TV)
 - Moseley Shoals.....Ocean Colour Scene (MCA)
 - Recurring Dream — Best Of.....Crowded House (Capitol)
 - Falling Into You.....Celine Dion (Epic)
 - The Score.....Fugees (Columbia)
 - (What's the Story) Morning Glory?.....Oasis (Creation)
 - Wildest Dreams.....Tina Turner (Parlophone)
 - Older.....George Michael (Virgin)
 - 1977.....Ash (Infectious)
- Copyright © 1996

CHOICE 1

The great Mstislav Rostropovich conducts the LSO at the Proms

VENUE: Tonight at the Albert Hall

CHOICE 2

Puccini comes to Twickenham with a staging of La Bohème

VENUE: On Sunday at Marble Hill

CHOICE 3

Gershwin's piano improvisations are recreated by Jack Gibbons

VENUE: Sunday at the Queen Elizabeth Hall

CHOICE 4

J.W.M. Turner is featured in the Astley Cheatham summer show

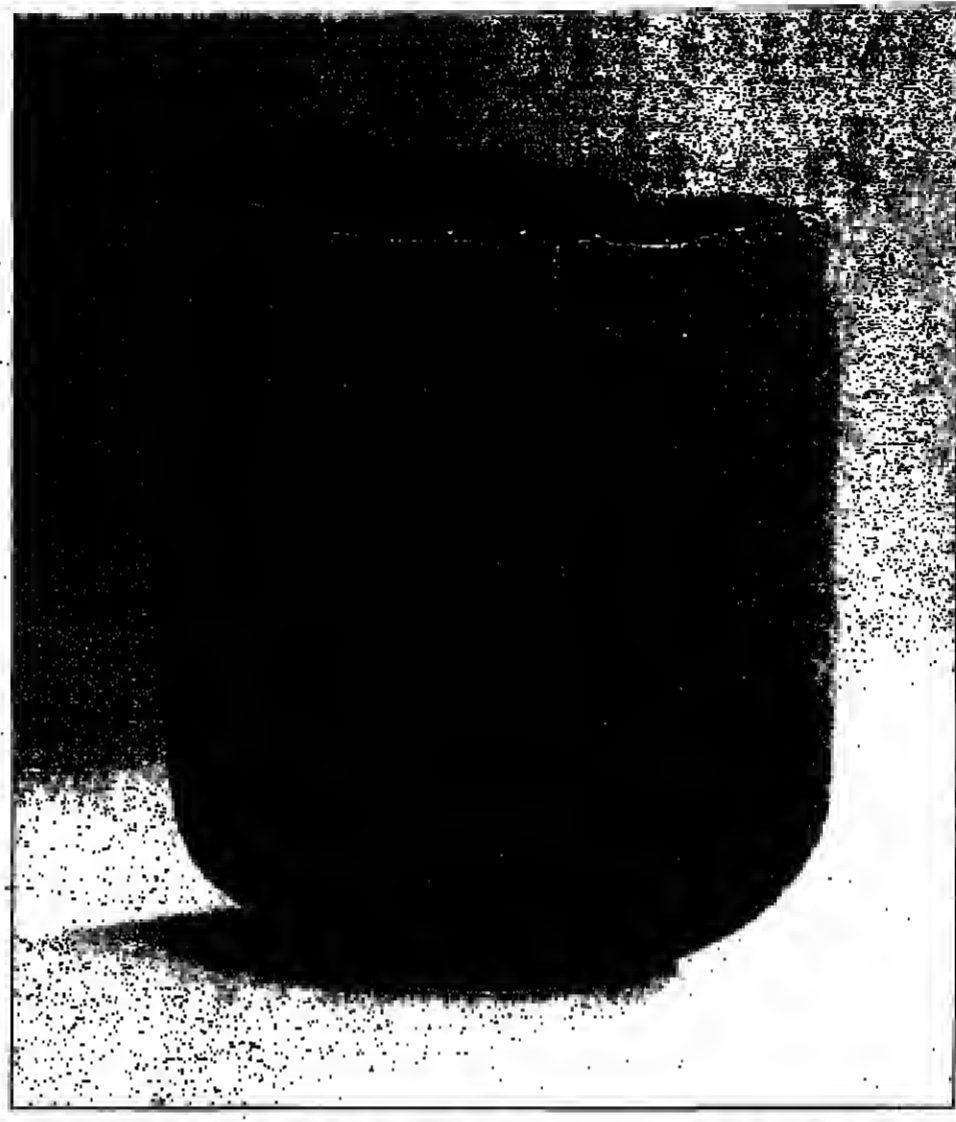
VENUE: Open daily in Stalybridge



VISUAL ART: Roger Berthoud on Britain's belated celebration of ceramics

Potter's wheel of fortune

Pots are going up in the world. In the Far East they have long been regarded as works of art...



Man of clay: pots by Gordon Baldwin, a contender for the £15,000 Jerwood Prize

relatively low prices of her wares, it was brave to open a gallery devoted solely to ceramics...

Being more affordable, pots bring people into the gallery

Islington and the Beaux Arts in Bath, match virtually every show of paintings with one of ceramics...

Some art galleries show just one or two potters a year. For Austin Desmond, near the British Museum, it is the late Michael Cardew and the Cornish potter Jason Wason...

sure that when we open the door of the Chelsea Crafts Fair in October, a buyer from Takashimaya will be there...

Court Road, CAA is a cooperative set up 50 years ago by a group of potters and run by a management committee...

The success of Anita Besson's Galerie Besson in the Royal Arcade, off Old Bond Street, is evidence of — and has contributed to — the upgrading of pottery's image...

LONDON

860 PROMS 96: In the first of three concerts this weekend, Mstislav Rostropovich conducts the London Symphony Orchestra tonight...

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Massey

ELSEWHERE

BLIXTON: This evening (7.30pm), the opera town will reconvene to the concert-hall mood of Mozart's Symphony No 25...

THE ASPEN PAPERS

Michael Redgrave's slightly old-fashioned version of the Henry James tale of a young man's infatuation with an older woman...

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingdon's assessment of the new plays and revivals in London

LONG RUNNERS

Blood Brothers: Phoenix (0171-360 1733) ... Bedlam: Strand (0171-930 8800) ... The Boy in the Blue Suit: New (0171-494 5252)

THE DEVIL IS AN ASS

Ben Jonson's adventures of a junior devil in a story London has soon found to be far worse than Hell...

THE YELLOW WALLPAPER

Patricia Boyer and Tobias Burns in a stage adaptation of this remarkable 1899 novel by Charlotte Perkins Gilman...

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS

1996's most romantic comedy about mistaken identity, with Janeane Garofalo, Uma Thurman and Ben Chaplin...

NEW RELEASES

Denise Calls Up (15): Lightweight, appealing lifestyle comedy from new American director Hal Salzman...

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the symbol on releases across the country

THE ROCK

Ed Harris action movie set on Alcatraz, with Nicolas Cage, Sean Connery and Ed Harris...

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES: When English Art was Young, Parkon Gallery 24-19 Young, 11 Macgillivray St...

THEATRES

ADRIAN: Andrew Lloyd Webber's MASTERPIECE, Wed 8pm, Sun 12pm

COMEDY

THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME: NOW IN ITS 7TH SENSATIONAL YEAR

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Directed by Harold Prince, now back to MAY 27, 7.45, 9.45, 11.45

THE ODD COUPLE

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BARBARA FLEISS AND JULIE TAYLOR: THE DEVIL IS AN ASS

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'THE TIMES House of Lords' and 'Causing'.

No duty of care over roads

Costs penalty for concealing case

Stovin v Wise, Norfolk County Council (Third Party) Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Nichols of Birkenhead and Lord Hoffmann (Speeches July 24)

Mr Timothy Saw, QC and Mr Mervyn Roberts for the council; Mr Robert Nelson, QC and Mr Richard Hone for Mrs Wise.

LORD NICHOLLS, dissenting, said that the crucial question was whether a highway authority, aware of a danger, owed to road users a common law duty to act as would a reasonable authority in the circumstances and hence was potentially liable in damages if it failed to do so.

Whether a statutory duty gave rise to a private cause of action was a matter of construction of the particular statute and depended on the policy of the statute.

The House of Lords so stated allowing a majority (Lord Slynn and Lord Nichols dissenting) to appeal by the third party to the action, Norfolk County Council, as the highway authority, from a decision dated February 16, 1994 of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Rix) (1994) 1 WLR 1124.

Second, the authority knew of the danger. When an authority was aware of a danger it had knowledge road users might not have.

First, the subject matter was physical injury. The existence of a source of danger exposed road users to a risk of serious, even fatal, injury. Road users, especially those unfamiliar with the stretch of road, were vulnerable. They were dependent on highway authorities for filling their statutory responsibilities.

Fourth, this was an area where Parliament had recognised that public authorities should be liable in damages for omissions as well as actions. The Highways (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1961 abrogated the old rule exempting the inhabitants at large and their successors from liability for non-repair of highways.

Third, the council failed to use that power, but that its existence showed that one of the purposes for which Parliament contemplated that the highway authority would spend its money was in the removal of exactly the kind of obstructions which caused the accident in the instant case.

Since *Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Trustees v Gibbs* (1866) 1 LR 1 HL 93 it had been clear law that, in the absence of express statutory authority, a public body was, in principle, liable for torts in the same way as a private person. But its statutory powers or duties might restrict its liability.

There was no authority for treating a common law duty of care as a question of statutory construction. It was a question of common law duty of care. Two cases, in particular, were thought to be against it: *Sheppard v Glossop Corporation* [1921] 3 KB 132 and *East Suffolk Rivers Catchment Board v Kent* [1941] AC 736.

Where the case was a question of statutory construction, it was a question of statutory construction. It was a question of common law duty of care. Two cases, in particular, were thought to be against it: *Sheppard v Glossop Corporation* [1921] 3 KB 132 and *East Suffolk Rivers Catchment Board v Kent* [1941] AC 736.

Causing fear does not obstruct highway

Brackenhall Lodge Ltd v Peart and Others

Kent County Council v Holland Before Lord Justice Schiemann and Mr Justice Brian Smedley [Judgment July 22]

MR JUSTICE BRIAN SMEDLEY said that the appellants contended that the presence of the dogs amounted to an obstruction in as much as their presence instilled fear into those persons passing along the path and prevented them from enjoying free passage over all parts of it.

The justices felt that, to regard the creation of fear as amounting to an obstruction would be to stretch the meaning of the word "obstruction" too far and his Lordship agreed. Whether a particular situation amounted to an obstruction had to be a question of fact for the tribunal on the facts of each particular case.

The justices had found that the respondent had been acting lawfully in the use of his property to exercise his dogs and that his actions were lawful.

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His Lordship concluded that if in the view of the local authority the use being made of the respondents' land amounted to a common law nuisance then it was open to them to consider taking steps, either civil or criminal, to put an end to it.

Humour no shield for contempt

£45,000 award not excessive for irresponsible libel

Attorney-General v British Broadcasting Corporation Same v Hat Trick Productions Ltd Before Lord Justice Auld and Mr Justice Sachs [Judgment June 12]

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by the County Council from the dismissal by Graveland Justices on October 10, 1995 of an information against Graham Holland that he willfully obstructed the free passage along a footpath contrary to section 137(1) of the 1980 Act.

The libel jury could properly take into account the prominence of the plaintiff's reputation when deciding what figure was required to vindicate it. They were also entitled to take account of the fact that it struck at the core of his life's achievement and that, according to the unchallenged evidence, it had a prolonged and significant effect on him personally.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when allowing the motion of the Attorney-General for committal of the British Broadcasting Corporation and Hat Trick Productions Ltd for contempt of court arising out of the BBC's television broadcast of a programme *Have I Got News For You*, produced by Hat Trick.

The broadcast was six months before the trial on the programme which was a popular, humorous and irreverent quiz programme on current affairs. His Lordship said that although they were spoken in that context and could not be regarded as evidence in nature, they might well have been taken by some viewers as statements of someone "in the know".

The award of £45,000 damages was not excessive where the publication of a libel was irresponsible. No defence of truth was available, and the plaintiff's name was included only because a journalist wished to use his name and prominence as an example of a disastrous loan made by the subsidiary of a leading bank.

The argument in the present case was that whereas a private person would have owed no duty of care in respect of an omission to remove the hazard at the junction, the duty of the highway authority was enlarged by virtue of its statutory powers.

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The argument was that while it might be unreasonable to expect a private landowner to spend money for the benefit of strangers who had the right to cross his land, the very purpose of the duty of a public authority like the council was to spend its resources on making the roads convenient and safe.

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Whether it could be relied upon to support the existence of a common law duty of care was not a question of statutory construction, because the cause of action did not arise out of the statute itself. But the policy of the statute was nevertheless a crucial factor in the decision.

Where the case was a question of statutory construction, it was a question of statutory construction. It was a question of common law duty of care. Two cases, in particular, were thought to be against it: *Sheppard v Glossop Corporation* [1921] 3 KB 132 and *East Suffolk Rivers Catchment Board v Kent* [1941] AC 736.

The question of whether anything should be done about the junction, here, was at all times firmly within the area of the highway authority's responsibility and its public law duty to do it.

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The Commons Commissioner in 1968 had decided that the stinholders owned the soil. He rejected a claim by Brackenhall to have acquired title by adverse possession.

On appeal, Mr Justice Scott had reversed the commissioner's decision. He agreed with the commissioner that prior to an award made in 1815 under a private enclosure Act of 1799 (59 Geo III Cap 69) the soil vested in the stinholders and not in the Bishop of Durham as lord of the manor but unlike the commissioner held that Brackenhall had acquired title by adverse possession.

Where the case was a question of statutory construction, it was a question of statutory construction. It was a question of common law duty of care. Two cases, in particular, were thought to be against it: *Sheppard v Glossop Corporation* [1921] 3 KB 132 and *East Suffolk Rivers Catchment Board v Kent* [1941] AC 736.

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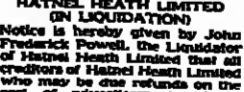
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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS



Professorship of Computing Science

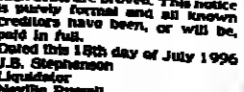
The electors intend to proceed to an election to the Professorship of Computing Science, with effect from 1 October 1997.

A non-stipendiary professorial fellowship at either St Hugh's College or St Hilda's College is attached to the professorship, under arrangements described in the further particulars.

Applicants (for copies, or one only from overseas candidates), naming three referees, should be received not later than 16 September 1996 by the Registrar, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

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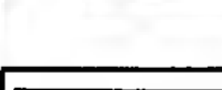
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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO CLAIM. G.H.H. COLLIER & SONS. PROTEA INVESTMENTS LIMITED. BOTH IN COMPULSORY LIQUIDATION.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE. IN CRIMINAL MATTERS. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT JOHN FREDERICK POWELL, of 18 Water Street, London W1A 1AA, on 6 August 1996, has been appointed as the Liquidator of the above named company.

MANDARIN RESOURCES CORPORATION LIMITED

(Provisional Liquidators Appointed) Companies Winding Up Order No 348 of 1996

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

By an Order of the Hong Kong High Court dated 23rd July 1996, Distinguished Judge and I have been appointed Provisional Liquidators of Mandarin Resources Corporation Limited, following an application to the Court by the Hong Kong Securities & Futures Commission. The appointment is an interim appointment and will be the subject of a further Court hearing on 23rd July 1996.

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John O'Leary, Gerry McCrum, and other text from the right margin of the page.

155 من الراجح

EDUCATION

John O'Leary on a scheme that could halt England's alarming slide in the world education league



Old fashioned 'whole-class teaching' in Wigan in 1939: should we go back to basics and adopt some of the successful teaching methods used on the continent?

What's wrong with our maths?

Evidence of British underachievement in mathematics is now so compelling that yesterday's Ofsted report on overseas comparisons was barely challenged. The focus of debate has switched from whether there is a problem to how it can be tackled.

Dagenham to demonstrate the success of their Anglo-Swiss regime, the organisers of the project have drawn preliminary conclusions about the changes required in primary education.

Professor Sig Prais's analysis will be published next week in the Journal of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research. Like Professor Reynolds, his chief aim is to ensure that more of each primary school class make progress together.

Professor Prais advocates at least three to four months' flexibility in the age at which a child starts school, recognising the varying rates of development among young children.

the other leave late. Professor Prais says: "The arrangement is similar in intention to but more effective in its application than that current in English schools where a teacher occasionally spends some minutes with a group of half a dozen pupils sitting around a table, while other pupils in that room proceed with their separate activities watched out of the corner of the teacher's eye."

Country	Maths overall 151 items	Fractions & number sense 51 items	Geometry 23 items	Algebra 27 items	Data analysis & probability 21 items	Measurement 18 items	Proportionality 11 items
Singapore	79 (77)	84 (80)	75 (69)	78 (68)	78 (72)	78 (73)	79 (71)
Japan	73 (67)	75 (71)	80 (74)	72 (64)	73 (73)	69 (62)	81 (55)
Switzerland	62 (53)	67 (60)	69 (49)	53 (41)	72 (59)	61 (53)	62 (44)
Canada	59 (52)	64 (58)	58 (50)	54 (43)	69 (53)	51 (44)	48 (42)
Germany	54 (46)	58 (55)	51 (46)	48 (38)	64 (51)	51 (46)	42 (37)
England	53 (47)	54 (48)	54 (49)	49 (41)	66 (52)	50 (43)	41 (36)

English 13-year-olds are bottom of a sub-set of nine comparable countries out of the 41 taking part in the Third International Mathematics and Science Study. Only the Americans tested for the study answered as few questions correctly as the English in Year 8 of the school system, and even the Americans were marginally ahead in Year 9.

Today comes more detailed advice from the one authority which has systematically adapted European methods for the British classroom. Although it is too soon for the six primary schools in Barking and

must encourage participation by all the children if it is to work. The emphasis in the project, especially with younger pupils, is on mental arithmetic. Much of each lesson is devoted to a teacher-led question and answer session.

Continental classes are often split into two for reading and arithmetic, enabling the teacher to concentrate on individual needs while a teaching assistant supervises the rest of the pupils. On some days, half the class may come to school early and

Duplicated copies of Professor Prais's article cost £5 from the Publications Department, NIESR, 2 Dean Trench Street, London SW1P 3HE. The whole edition of the Economic Review is £25.

A parent's life and hard times

Neil McIntosh opens the pages of his diary of the academic year

The story starts in July 1995, when I amend an open evening at my daughter's preferred sixth form, a consortium of four north London schools. She is insistent that she does not want to stay at her current, independent girls school.

Academically, I am encouraged by the open evening, though I worry about the notion of 16-year-olds moving between three or four schools with large parts of each day entirely unstructured.

August: With summer holidays over, we suddenly realise that we have had no communication from the local primary school about our five-year-old son, apart from the one-paragraph letter confirming his place. What day does he start? What time? What other information should we have?

September 4: Apologetic call from the head. How could we have slipped through the net? Next day the start of school. A bright, enthusiastic new teacher for the reception class. Altogether reassuring. On the other hand, no induction or induction materials.

September 12: Invitation from Judith (who she?) to a new parents' meeting at two days' notice. Which of us can/should drop everything?

October: The third start of the year as my 20-year-old firstborn heads off to read history at York. Not only a good university but, coincidentally, his parents' alma mater. The attractions of the place and the undergraduate life are obvious.

November: Will she, won't she — our three-year-old that is — get a place in the nursery at her brother's school? No one seems to know. Eventually the head assures my wife that notices will go out "in a few days". My wife walks back to our house and the letter offering a part-time place is on the doormat.

March: Sudden deterioration in the behaviour of our five-year-old. Why should a bright, unusu-

ally academic boy who is very fond of his teacher suddenly give her a hard time? The teacher wonders if it is something at home. We worry about modern classroom environments which are, of course, less formal and somewhat noisier than we have been used to.

April: We attend a parents' evening as part of the Ofsted inspection of the school. About 40 parents generally, and rightly, supportive of the school but with quite widespread concern about under-achievement.

I receive a letter from York. My son wants to leave to train to be an actor. Somewhat depressed, I get in touch. This summer term, he tells me, he receives 3.25 hours teaching per week.

May: We spend an hour with the nursery teacher. A full-time place is, almost certainly, available next term. The nursery teacher is, as ever, helpful and thorough. However she won't be doing an assembly with the children this term because she, and others, are too exhausted by the Ofsted inspection. My wife is bemused. I, running a company which has managed more than 600 school inspections, shrug my shoulders. I find the inability of teachers to undergo inspection without suffering hypertension quite bizarre but I know it is a fact and that a major change in culture and attitude is needed from the profession as a whole.

July: Now 17, my older daughter, is working in a restaurant for the last two weeks of term. This is supposedly work experience. In fact she has plenty such experience and, in effect, the term has simply ended two weeks early and she is earning money for the summer.

I do not mind her doing this, but it does confirm some of my worries about the consortium's hands-off management of sixth formers. The primary school sports day is a woefully disorganised melée of non-competitive activities in the hard playground, though there is a park close by. The afternoon makes me reflect on what is wrong with education. What makes the liberal Left equate disorganisation and inefficiency with caring? The lack of structure gave the teachers a gruesomely stressful afternoon.

July 19: Term ends. We have received no formal notification that a full-time nursery place is available.

Sports day showed all that was wrong with education

Gerry McCrum on the law of diminishing returns

The best school I ever attended was perched on the edge of Liverpool Zoo, with a square mile of 1930s semis on one side and Victorian terraces on the other. It was known as an elementary school and was of elementary construction: corrugated iron. It was dry, comfortable and well heated.

Money isn't enough

show the difference in quality of schools that the average negro child and the average white child are exposed to. You know yourself that the difference is going to be striking.

by black and white children were negligible. The considerable difference in average performance between black and white children was not caused by a difference in school expenditure.

But the main thrust, that classmates matter most, is well within our own experience. Today the great majority of our A-level students are educated in neighbourhood comprehensives. Boys and girls living in areas with high property prices have an enhanced chance of affluent classmates. These neighbourhoods attract families willing to pay extra for a superior house, and the likelihood of affluent classmates for their children.

With no selection process in operation, other than the catchment area, the subtle characteristics that generate superior school performance just happen to occur most frequently in schools with affluent pupils.

But what of boys and girls who do not live in affluent areas? Clearly for them the neighbourhood comprehensive may not be a good school. This "Coleman Effect" can be seen clearly in my own town, Oxford, and doubtless elsewhere in the UK.

A cuckoo in the nest

Oxford University has accepted a multi-million pound donation to found a business school. It will no doubt boast the most opulent interior of any building in the university but will the brightest and the best of its students, from one of our brightest and best centres of learning, seek correspondingly high-powered positions in industry to practise the skills they have learnt?

Management is not a subject where principles can be abstracted from the details of what a company does. The notion of an officer class of managers is uniformly disastrous for the only general principles that can be transmitted by teaching of this sort involve finance.

After the war a team of young business graduates in the Pentagon, innovators in applying statistics to military logistics, offered themselves as a management team to Ford. At that time the company was struggling to recover from 15 years of economic absolutism. The new managers ended the chaos but they could understand only what was quantifiable — money.

Is business a respectable subject for universities?

decisions they should be valued advisers to executives who know the company intimately. The idea of an industry-transfer market in top management is misguided.

An officer class of managers is uniformly disastrous

ment consultants charge huge fees to give advice for which they take no financial responsibility. Incredibly, Oxford called in management consultants recently to examine relationships within and between its colleges, faculties and administration. Incredibly, because the dons must be so hypnotised as to discount these problems.

on this world rather than the next. Knowledge was organised into categories taken from classical civilisation, taught in distinct "schools".

The Bachelor of Arts degree comprised grammar, logic and rhetoric, and the Master of Arts music, arithmetic, geometry and astronomy. Over centuries of scholarship these categories slowly slipped out of date. But today's subjects are their direct descendant and in this nest "management" is a cuckoo, an impostor.

Every university is a descendant of Plato's Academy, in having a brief to ask questions of the world and to seek to answer them. Europe's oldest universities were founded in the Middle Ages and the idea of the university received a huge boost from the Renaissance's emphasis

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ANTHONY GARRETT



RACING

Injury rules Roberts out of Goodwood

By Julian Muscat

IT HAS been an unhappy 24 hours for Michael Roberts. The jockey learnt on Wednesday that he would not, after all, ride Pentire in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot tomorrow. But worse was to follow when Roberts fractured his left wrist in a fall at Sandown yesterday.



Quinn guides Red Camellia to an emphatic victory in the Milcours Star Stakes at Sandown yesterday

Tedburrow can overcome penalty

ASCOT BBC2 2.15: The betting may offer the best guide. Mystique, Sleepless and Summergold hold entries in the Cheveley Park Stakes and/or Lowther Stakes, but may be denied by Mayfair, a sister to the smart Magic Ring. Paul Cole's juveniles have been in good form all season, and the Whatcombe trainer has a fine first time out strike-rate.

3.15: Sylva Paradise has only a 3lb penalty for his easy 3-length success at Yarmouth on Tuesday and Clive Brittain's Cup hope is sure to give a good account. Despite stepping back a furlong, he showed his effectiveness at the minimum trip behind Midnight Escape here last month.



Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes 'THUNDERER' and 'GOING: GOOD TO FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '2.15 FOOD BROKERS MAIDEN STAKES' and 'FORM FOCUS'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '2.45 P & O EUROPEAN FERRIES BROWN JACK HANDICAP' and 'FORM FOCUS'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '3.15 JACKMAN'S GARDEN CENTRE RATED HANDICAP' and 'FORM FOCUS'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '3.50 HEATHORNS BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP' and 'FORM FOCUS'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '4.25 DELOITTE & TOUCHE EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND MAIDEN STAKES' and 'FORM FOCUS'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '5.00 P & O CRUISES MAIDEN STAKES' and 'FORM FOCUS'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '5.45 THE WOODS TIMES' and 'COURSE SPECIALISTS'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes 'THUNDERER' and 'GOING: FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '2.05 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND MAIDEN FILLES STAKES' and 'GOING: FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '2.35 TRANSPENNINE EXPRESS HANDICAP' and 'GOING: FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '3.05 ROYAL ARTILLERY HERITAGE HANDICAP' and 'GOING: FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '3.40 DUNNINGTON CONDITIONS STAKES' and 'GOING: FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '4.10 HUTTON WANDESLEY MAIDEN STAKES' and 'GOING: FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '4.40 HASTON SELLING HANDICAP' and 'GOING: FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '5.10 LEVY BOARD APPRENTICES HANDICAP' and 'GOING: FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes 'THUNDERER' and 'GOING: GOOD TO FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '6.15 HUNTON MAIDEN STAKES' and 'GOING: GOOD TO FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '6.45 NIK SPARK PLUGS HANDICAP' and 'GOING: GOOD TO FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '7.15 SHOWDENS MARQUEES MAIDEN STAKES' and 'GOING: GOOD TO FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '7.45 BAILEYS IRISH CREAM LIQUEUR HANDICAP' and 'GOING: GOOD TO FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '8.15 HARGRAVE NURSERY HANDICAP' and 'GOING: GOOD TO FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '8.45 SAWSTON CONDITIONS STAKES' and 'GOING: GOOD TO FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes 'THUNDERER' and 'GOING: GOOD TO FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '8.00 NOTTINGHAM FOREST TREAT END MAIDEN STAKES' and 'GOING: GOOD TO FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '6.30 NOTTINGHAM FOREST '96 SELLING STAKES' and 'GOING: GOOD TO FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '7.00 NOTTINGHAM FOREST SHAREHOLDERS LIMITED STAKES' and 'GOING: GOOD TO FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '7.30 FRANK CLARK MAIDEN STAKES' and 'GOING: GOOD TO FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '8.00 NOTTINGHAM FOREST TREAT END MAIDEN STAKES' and 'GOING: GOOD TO FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '8.30 STUART PEARCE HANDICAP' and 'GOING: GOOD TO FIRM'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Details. Includes '9.00 NOTTINGHAM FOREST BRIDGFORD END HANDICAP' and 'GOING: GOOD TO FIRM'.

Advertisement for William Hill with text 'GOT A CARD? GET A FREE £10 BET' and 'FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS'.

Advertisement for RACELINE with text 'ASCOT THIRSK NEWHAMPTON NOTT'AM IRISH' and 'FULL RESULTS SERVICE'.

Advertisement for William Hill with text 'LATEST ODDS ON WILLIAM HILL TV TEXT' and 'Teletext on CH4 P601/602/603'.

Advertisement for William Hill with text 'COURSE SPECIALISTS' and a table of jockeys and trainers.

CRICKET: PAKISTAN RESCUED BY MAGNIFICENT INNINGS OF POWER AND PRECISION

Lord's rises to acclaim Inzamam

Simon Wilde watches a batsman blossom at the Mecca of cricket

INZAMAM-UL-HAQ is not the first overseas cricketer to come to Lord's and do justice to his talent...

Inzamam capped his performance by going on to 148, the highest of his five Test centuries...



Inzamam trudges off after his inspired innings of 148 was ended by him playing on to Mullyally yesterday

the year after and, by gradually tightening up his technique, has since established himself as one of the most consistent batsmen in the world...

England clearly had a plan to curb Inzamam's penchant for driving. Atherton greeted him with close catchers on both sides of the wicket...

He has also enhanced his range of strokes. Once predominantly an on-side player, he now exhibits some glorious cover drives...

By IVO TENNANT

He is still quite capable of dominating a session or two, as those Worcestershire bowlers who had the bad luck to bowl at him in the second round of the NatWest Trophy will testify...

By IVO TENNANT

Windows rises to the occasion

By JACK BAILEY

CHELTENHAM (first day of four): Gloucestershire won toss; Gloucestershire have scored 331 for three wickets against Warwickshire

AS NEAR a perfect day as you could wish for: the glorious setting of the College Ground, a pitch made for batting...

quishing at the foot of the championship table, it was a good loss to win and an encouraging day all round...

The partnership of 148 in 42 overs between Windows and Hancock was the highest for Gloucestershire for any wicket this season...

Hampshire come up short

By IVO TENNANT

SOUTHAMPTON (first day of four): Hampshire won toss; Hampshire have scored 332 for seven wickets against Surrey

VARIOUS Hampshire batsmen batted yesterday with an ease that suggested they should have made rather more runs than they did...

He is still quite capable of dominating a session or two, as those Worcestershire bowlers who had the bad luck to bowl at him in the second round of the NatWest Trophy will testify...

By IVO TENNANT

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This week I want to discuss the auction after a take-out double and the initial response. If the doubler is minimum, say 12-15 HCP...

On hand (i) you should make a simple rebid of One No-trump. To overcall One No-trump would have shown 16-18; therefore to double first shows a little more...

Hand (ii) has a working 5 HCP and a possible ruffing value, quite a suitable hand, but still eleven tricks is a lot to make; a quiet Three Clubs is best...

Hand (v) is an example of what you need to raise partner's One Spade response to Two Spades - remember he could have a Yarborough. Hand (vi) is very powerful and worth a jump to Three Clubs...

EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS: Juniors: Standings (after 15 rounds) 1. Norway 30pts; 2. Denmark 300; 3. Russia 282.5; 4. Israel 272; 5. Sweden 261...

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Anand revived After losing the PCA world championship match to Garry Kasparov in New York last year...

In the following game, against Veselin Topalov, the highly-ranked Bulgarian grandmaster, Anand builds up a fierce kingside attack against Topalov's Sicilian Defence...

Hand (ii) has a working 5 HCP and a possible ruffing value, quite a suitable hand, but still eleven tricks is a lot to make; a quiet Three Clubs is best...

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Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Whitaker's resolve rallies quest for title

By OUA SPORTS STAFF

JAMES WHITAKER typed the determination underlying Worcestershire's quest for their first championship since 1975 on a testing day for the second-placed side at Grace Road yesterday...

Sussex fielded an all-England attack in the absence of Ian Salisbury and were rewarded when they reduced Leicestershire to 177 for seven and Whitaker retired hurt and apparently out of the match with a torn calf muscle...

Hand (ii) has a working 5 HCP and a possible ruffing value, quite a suitable hand, but still eleven tricks is a lot to make; a quiet Three Clubs is best...

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Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Table of cricket scores for various matches including Cheltenham, Southampton, Gloucestershire v Warwickshire, Worcestershire v Northamptonshire, Hampshire v Surrey, and others.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- PRICKET a. A deer b. A thorn hedge c. A concealed dagger
PARR a. A young salmon b. Scratch c. An old man
BULLY OFF a. The red card b. Army short rations c. Hockey start

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. Game Chiburdanidze - Larsen, Vienna 1993. Although Black is material ahead in this position, White's active bishop pair provide plenty of counterplay...

Tait as contro King i costly

OLYMPIC GAMES

Tait assumes control after King makes costly error

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR

BLYTH TAIT, of New Zealand, the former world champion...



fulfilled expectations when he and Mr Bootsie had a clear round to go into ninth.

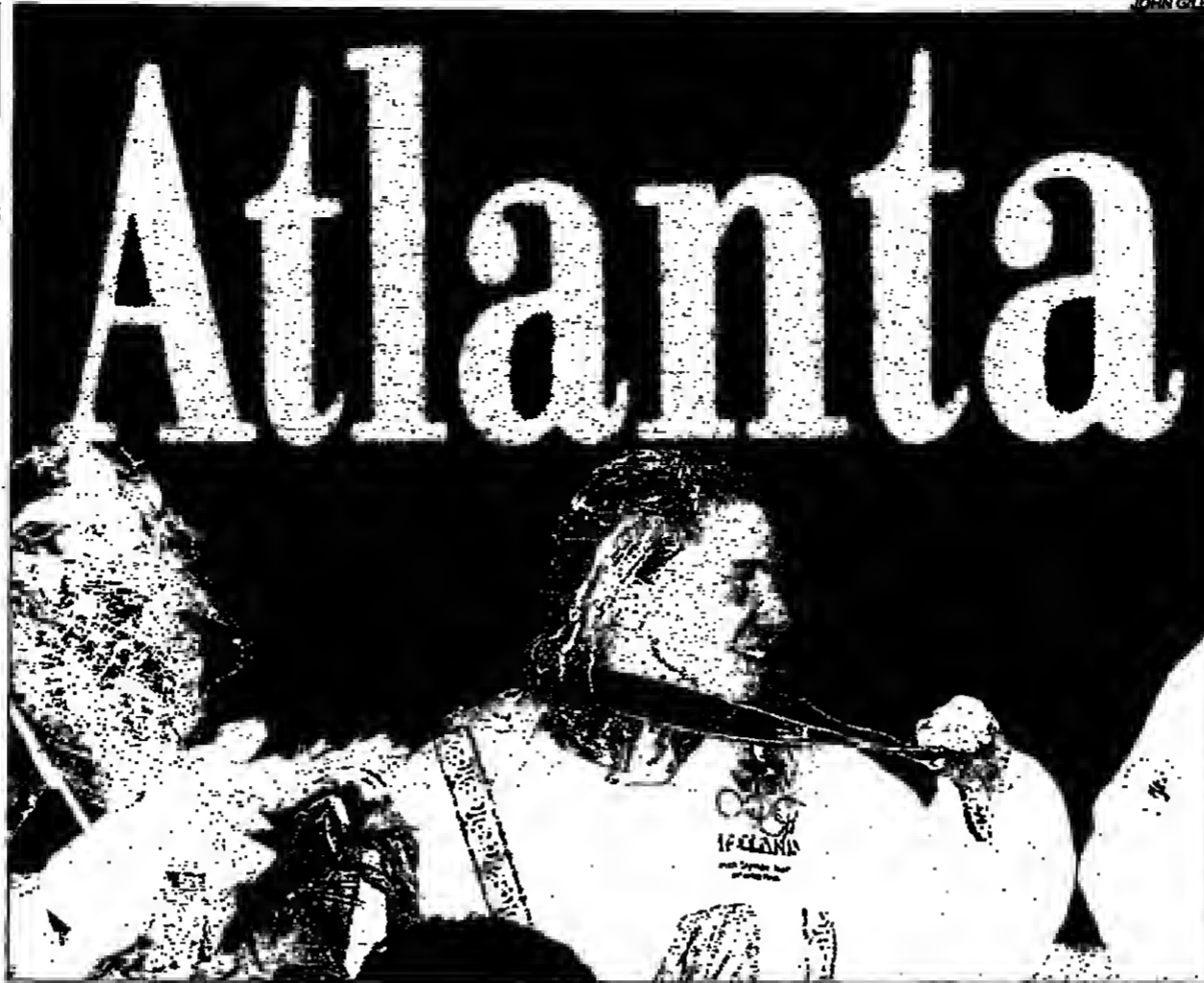
With most of the top horses going in the team event, the individual contest was always going to be a sub-standard event.

Andrew Nicholson, a bronze medal-winner with the New Zealand team...

Marie-Christine Duray, of France, a veteran of three Olympic Games...

There was nothing second-rate about the performance of Tait and Ready Teddy...

There was more gloomy news for the depressed British camp when The Cool Customer...



Smith is ecstatic as she shows off her third gold medal after winning the 200 metres individual medley

Smith plunges into pool of money

By Craig Lord

Dollar signs were smiling in the Irish eyes of Kathy Stapleton...

Craig Lord finds Ireland's swim heroine

moment. My job until Friday is in the pool. It's never been my goal in life to be rich or wealthy...

McGregor raises Britain's hopes

YVONNE MCGREGOR lifted some of the gloom over Britain's track team yesterday when she qualified third-fastest in the women's 3,000 metres pursuit...

Smith suggests success after Foster failure

FROM CRAIG LORD

MARK FOSTER became the latest British casualty of the swimming heats at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center yesterday...

That was much better news from Graeme Smith of Stockport, who qualified second-fastest for the 1,500 metres freestyle final in 15min 14.81sec...

Given that Foster, 26, finished sixth at the last Games after only a season back in the sport, he could only wonder at what went wrong...

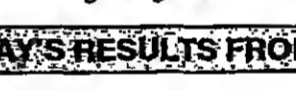
Though his start looked good and he maintained a powerful rhythm and smooth stroke to lead Gary Hall...

Foster has a chance to make amends in the B, or consolation, final, but says of a medal are gone for a man aiming to capitalise on a

Fourth place is the worst possible. Gillingham, at 29 the oldest man in the final, said: "I haven't say of a medal are gone for a man aiming to capitalise on a

Gillingham never put himself in contention and, turning fifth at 150 metres, he could not recover his large deficit behind Norbert Kozsa...

Another Hungarian, Kristina Egerszegi, set herself up to become the first woman since Dawn Fraser to win three consecutive Olympic titles at the same event...



Egerszegi: fastest

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS FROM ATLANTA

Table with multiple columns listing sports events, medalists, and scores for Wednesday's late results from Atlanta.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS FROM ATLANTA

Table with multiple columns listing sports events, medalists, and scores for yesterday's results from Atlanta.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS FROM ATLANTA

Table with multiple columns listing sports events, medalists, and scores for yesterday's results from Atlanta.

ATLANTA 96: THE COMPLETE GUIDE



Mary Slaney, whose tangle with Zola Budd in 1984 was the most dramatic story of those Olympics, appears in the 5,000 metres this evening. Aged 37, with her Los Angeles tears a long time dry, Slaney is a member of the Olympic team for the fourth time, but her first for eight years. She has managed to put the Budd incident, in which America's darling of middle-distance running was brought to earth during the 3,000 metres, behind her, but memories came flooding back as she emerged to challenge again for the United States' squad. "I rarely think about '84, but, in the last six weeks, I have seen and heard more about it than I have for the past ten years," Slaney said. "It has been put out in front of me, as if to say, 'Don't forget it.'" The most notable Olympic faller since Slaney was Gail Devers, who crashed at the final flight of the 1992 100 metres hurdles in Barcelona, when leading. Ironically, both women stumbled in the Olympic trials this year but stayed up this time. DP

HOT SPOT

Four years ago, Linnor Christie won the gold medal in the 100 metres. These are certain to be Christie's last big championships and, although his performances this season have been lacklustre, it would be foolish to write him off. He has a habit of rising to the occasion and will relish the chance of beating the Americans on their home territory. He begins the defence of his title today. TV: BBC1: from 4pm.

The gold medal in the ray-of-sunshine stakes must go to Amanda Beard, at 14 years old the youngest member of the United States team. Winner of silver medals in the 100 and 200 metres breaststroke, Beard learned that her pet rabbit had given birth. "I'm gonna call one of them 'Silver' — it's the only colour I know," joked the schoolgirl, who later won a gold in the 4 x 100 metres medley and who donates \$1 out of her \$6-a-week pocket money to animal welfare. Her parents were even forced to bring her teddy bear to the final. A soft target for one hard-bitten hacker who was sent on asking questions about drugs? Apparently not. Beard's comments were perhaps the most mature so far heard at the Games. "I never thought about doing drugs. I am doing fine right now and I think you feel a lot better about yourself when you touch the wall and you know it was you and not something inside you, some substance. I think you earn it more if it comes from the heart and the hard workouts." CL

The French synchronised swimming team is proving the most controversial of almost any at the Games. Originally they were planning a routine, with the swimmers nimbly manoeuvring round the pool, based on re-creating elements of the Holocaust. This provoked outrage, not only in France, where the subject touches a particular nerve (as it was an occupied country), but also across the world. The squad protested that their routine for Atlanta was designed to renew attention on one of humanity's greatest crimes. Eventually, Guy Drué, the French Minister of Sport and Olympic 110 metres hurdles champion in 1976, banned the routine. The French squad reacted by closing their practices to the media. Although they have not announced their substitute choice, it is understood that on August 2 their routine will be a re-enactment of General Sherman's notorious march through Georgia in the American Civil War, which devastated large areas of the state in which the Olympics are being staged. JG

Security at the Olympic yachting venue is probably as tight as anywhere at these most security-conscious Games. The sailors are brought in by bus every day from the Olympic village in Savannah to the Lemaha marina, with three police cars travelling in front and behind them. To get into the site, itself, they then go through a highly-sensitive metal detector. A nickel in your pocket will start it off, as will a signet ring and even a metal-tipped leather belt. One member of the Australian team — not a sailor, but part of the back-up staff — got sued up trying to get through it that, despite the presence of female security guards and teams of officers waiting to be in, he stripped off completely and still managed to get it off. Meanwhile, the daily thunderstorms have left the competitors with not much to do out on the day-marina for hours at a time. The inventive Greek team have made makeshift fishing nets to catch crabs and are now running regular afternoon races between the creatures. EG

The inclusion of the lightweights, allowed to compete in an Olympic Games for the first time, has caused some controversy. Their participation was made possible when three open events — the men's coxed pair and four and the women's coxless fours — were dropped from the Olympic programme. "It's a pity, really. The whole lightweight programme should have been included without the removal of any heavyweight events," Peter Haining, the British sculler, has said. Not even the council of Fisa, rowing's international body, could reach a consensus before putting the issue to a vote by national federations, although it has agreed to review the decision next year. Heavyweight rowers argue that since the best lightweights — such as Haining — have always competed in the Games, there is no need for special events. It is the coxes who are least happy with the inclusion of lightweights, because their events have been slashed from four to two.

MEAL TABLES

	Gold	Silver	Bronze		Gold	Silver	Bronze
Russia	11	7	5	Costa Rica	1	0	0
United States	10	14	4	Kazakhstan	1	0	0
France	6	3	7	Germany	0	6	9
China	5	5	6	Belarus	0	2	0
Poland	5	2	2	Greece	0	2	0
Italy	3	4	4	Bulgaria	0	1	2
Cuba	3	4	2	Brazil	0	1	2
South Korea	3	3	2	Canada	0	1	2
Australia	3	2	5	North Korea	0	1	1
Turkey	3	0	1	Spain	0	1	1
Ireland	3	0	0	Sweden	0	1	1
Japan	2	2	1	Austria	0	1	0
Belgium	2	1	2	Uzbekistan	0	1	0
New Zealand	2	0	1	Great Britain	0	1	0
South Africa	2	0	1	Finland	0	1	0
Hungary	1	2	5	Holland	0	0	4
Ukraine	1	0	2	Georgia	0	0	1
Romania	1	0	1	Moldavia	0	0	1
Yugoslavia	1	0	1				
Armenia	1	0	0				

□ At end of Wednesday's events

Reports: David Powell

ATLANTA TODAY
Weather: sunny Humidity: 85% Temperature: 75F

Reports: Craig Lord, Edward German, Andrew Legg

TODAY AT THE GAMES

All times BST

ATHLETICS: 20km walk (13.00); men's high jump, qualifying (14.00); women's 100m, first round (15.00); men's shot, qualifying (15.05); men's 100m, first round (16.00); women's 400m, first round (17.00); women's javelin, qualifying (21.30 and 23.00); women's 800m, heats (22.00); women's 100m, second round (23.05); men's triple jump, qualifying (23.10); men's 100m, second round (23.35); men's 400m, first round (00.00); women's 5,000m, heats (00.50); men's shot, final (01.00); men's 10,000m, heats (02.15).
BADMINTON: Men's singles, third round (14.00 and 19.00); women's singles, second (14.00) and third (19.00) and 01.00 rounds; mixed doubles, first round (01.00).
BASKETBALL: Men's preliminary round: Pool A: Angola

v Lithuania (17.00); Argentina v Croatia (01.00); United States v China (03.00); Pool B: Puerto Rico v Australia (15.00); South Korea v Greece (20.00); Brazil v Yugoslavia (22.00).
BEACH VOLLEYBALL: Men's and women's (15.00 and 19.30).
BOXING: Light-flyweight, lightweight and middleweight, second round (18.30 and 01.00).
CYCLING: Men: Team pursuit, qualifying (13.30) and quarter-finals (18.50); sprint, third round (15.45) and repechages (16.30). Women: Sprint, quarter-finals (15.30) and semi-finals (17.20); individual pursuit, quarter-finals (18.55).
DIVING: Women's platform, preliminaries (20.00).
EQUESTRIANISM: Three-day event: individual jumping (final discipline, 16.00).
HANDBALL: Women's preliminary round: Pool A: Hungary v China (15.00), Denmark v United States

(19.30); Pool B: Norway v Angola (17.00); South Korea v Germany (21.30).
HOCKEY: Men's preliminary round: Pool A: Germany v Argentina (14.00); Pakistan v India (22.30); Spain v United States (01.00). Women's round-robin: United States v Germany (22.30); Australia v Great Britain (01.00).
JUDO: Men's under 60kg and women's under 48kg, preliminaries (14.30 and 30), finals (20.00).
ROWING: Men: Semi-finals: Lightweight double sculls (14.00); lightweight coxless fours (14.40); quadruple sculls (15.50). Women: Semi-finals: Lightweight double sculls (14.20).
SHOOTING: Men: 10-metre running target, preliminaries (14.00) and final (19.30); skeet, preliminaries (15.00). Women: Sport pistol, precision qualifying (13.30), rapid fire qualifying (15.00) and precision final (17.00).
SOFTBALL: Round-robin: Japan v Puerto Rico (14.00); United States v Australia (16.30); Canada v Holland (23.30); China v Taiwan (02.00).

SWIMMING: Heats at 15.05 for evening finals. Final: Men: 200m backstroke (00.55); 1,500m freestyle (01.45); 4 x 100m medley relay (02.20). Women: 200m butterfly (00.33); 50m freestyle (01.18).
TABLE TENNIS: Men's singles, round-robin (15.00 and 01.00); women's singles, round-robin (15.00); women's doubles, quarter-finals (00.00).
TENNIS: Men's and women's singles, second round and men's and women's doubles, first round (15.00).
VOLLEYBALL: Women's preliminary round: Pool A: Holland v South Korea (17.30); China v Ukraine (21.00); United States v Japan (03.30). Pool B: Russia v Peru (15.00); Germany v Cuba (23.30); Canada v Brazil (03.00).
WATER POLO: Quarter-finals (20.00, 21.40, 23.20 and 03.00).
WEIGHTLIFTING: Under 83kg: Group B (17.30) and group A (final, 21.00).
YACHTING: Two races to be sailed in each class: men's and women's Mistral, Soling, Tornado (18.00).

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

BBC1

7.0-9.0am Olympic Breakfast, 9.05am-12.35pm Olympic Grandstand, 1.40-3.55pm Olympic Grandstand (with cricket from Lord's), 7.0-8.30pm The Essential Olympics, 10.15pm-4.25am Olympic Grandstand.

BBC2

6.55-7.0pm Olympic Grandstand (after close of play at Lord's), 8.30-10.15pm Olympic Grandstand, 1.0-2.0am Olympic Grandstand.
Eurosport
24-hour coverage

Panasonic

Official Worldwide Sponsor
1996 Olympic Games



Angry to co judges

Johnson

Australian in Star cl

OLYMPIC GAMES

Angry Scherbo left to count cost of judges' discretion

FROM DAVID MILLER IN ATLANTA

OH! OH! What a referee! The cry is as old as sport. It is no different in the Olympic Games — worst of all, perhaps, in those arbitrarily-judged spellbinders, figure skating and gymnastics. The loudest sound at the Georgia Dome in the men's individual all-around gymnastics competition was Vitaly Scherbo's opinion of the judges.

The Belorussian, who won six gold medals at the last Games when competing for the Unified Team, was grumbling round by round, as much as anything about what he regarded as unfairly low marks for Alexei Nemov, the young Russian, in his duel with Xiaohuang Li, the eventual champion, China's first.

A margin of only 0.049 points separated Nemov and Li, which any neutral, rational observer might think to be impossibly fine for judgment by the naked eye in a total, for Li, of 58.423 — the third-smallest margin since the competition's inception in 1900 at Paris. As well as trying counting, while in motion, the competitors' eyelashes.

A Russian has a strange way of condensing untold emotion within an expressionless face. Scherbo, a White Russian, wore a look that could kill. After a traumatic eight months, during which his wife had nearly died in a car crash at their new home in Pennsylvania, he was angry; at his own failure and that Nemov, his former Soviet colleague, had not defeated Li, of whose ability he has a critical opinion.

Asked what his wife, Irina, who persuaded him to continue preparing for the Games after her accident, would think of his bronze medal, Scherbo replied tartly: "She expected

the gold. We don't know the colour of other medals." Furthermore, he promised that when he retires, he will join the technical commission of the International Gymnastics Federation "and teach them how to judge". He considered

theommel horse for Nemov and Scherbo, floor for Li and his colleague, Jinjing Zhang, the order was Nemov first, Scherbo sixth, Li fifth and Zhang eighth. In the next round, Scherbo's performance on rings, substantiating Li's comments, saw him slip to eleventh, while Li and Zhang, on parallel bars, had climbed to second and third.

Slowly, Scherbo began to haul himself back into contention: sixth, then fourth, then third after vault, parallel bars and high bar. Meanwhile, a 9.775 on rings by Li, explosive in his somersaults and twists, had taken the lead over the imposing Nemov.

In the fifth rotation, a superb high-bar display by Nemov, revolving spectacularly with the release-and-regain grip that is so difficult and dangerous, regained the lead by 0.038 with 9.800, his highest mark of the evening, against Li's relatively poor 9.650 on parallel bars. At these margins, perhaps the judges themselves should get medals for judging.

To the climax. Scherbo, with his best mark of 9.787 on the high bar, was nonetheless out of reach of gold and silver, never mind a superb floor exercise, floating as though on a cushion of mercury. The crowd, and clearly he, thought his mark of 9.762 an insult.

The contest was between Nemov and Li. Li went through his routine on the parallel bars with the precision of a procer slicing ham. Nemov, on the floor, missed a twist, tried to improvise and reintroduce it, but missed a final step. Scherbo was grandly condescending towards the winner. "He's improved," the deposed champion said. "He found some culture."

In spite of questionable, subjective marking, the fluctuation of placing, event by event, made compulsive viewing. After the first discipline,



Redgrave and Pinsent cross the line first in their semi-final of the coxed pairs on Lake Lanier yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Redgrave and Pinsent remain on course

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL

GREAT Britain crews produced inspirational performances in the first day of semi-finals at Lake Lanier yesterday, winning three places in the finals, which take place on Saturday.

Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, the defending coxed pairs champions, led the charge with a first place in their semi-final. The American media had built up the prospects of their rivals from the United States, Michael Peterson and Jonathan Holland, and the locals duly blasted off, to the crowd's delight, to lead Britain over the first half of the race.

The British pair, rowing at a lower rate, looked calm, however, and then pushed in a

third quarter in 1min 43sec to take the lead at the 1,500 metre mark; the broken Americans finished fourth.

The Britons were happier than they had been after their first-round race. "We were influenced by the crews around us then," Pinsent said. "We rowed the race we wanted to today without expending too much energy."

Redgrave agreed. "If we had gone off to race the USA, we might have been in the B final with them," he said. Australia, winners of the other semi-final, look more threatening than earlier in the season. "It is a serious business now," Redgrave added. "All the playing has been done."

Great Britain's 1992 coxed pair Olympic champions, Greg and Jonny Searle, then



took centre stage in the coxed fours with Rupert Obholzer and Tim Foster and, after a blistering first 500 metres in which the British never rated below 40 strokes per minute, they were fourth with less than a length covering all six crews.

At halfway, Romania led, but Britain were second, rowing economically, and, like the pair, they pushed in the third quarter to take pole position and win the race with a final flourish, rating at 42½. The performance suggests that they will be capable of living with the best in the event, France pipping Italy,

the world champions, and Australia, the Olympic champions, in the fractionally faster other semi-final. Tim Foster summed up the thoughts of many when he said: "It could be any one of six on Saturday. Winning the semi-final means nothing. Everyone starts equal in the final."

The performances of Britain's established stars were matched by the rising star, Guin Batten, in the women's sculls. Batten, not overawed by "the best field I have ever raced in", produced one of her best starts, but was lying in fifth place at 500 metres.

She passed Liu, from China, by halfway, but was well adrift of the vital third place. She moved up a little by 1,500 metres and was overlapping Ruth Davidson, of the United

States, but Davidson rallied and moved away when, 300 metres from home, Batten passed Peter Haining, her training partner, on the way to his final.

"Guin, you can do it. They are fading," came a shout. Batten believed it and overtook Elisabeta Lipa, of Romania, the 1992 Olympic champion, to take third place and book an appearance in the Olympic final.

Unfortunately, Haining, having proved Batten's inspiration, could not continue the British run of success and finally succumbed to heavier opponents in his semi-final, again into an unwanted headwind. He will race in the B final, as will Philippa Cross and Kate Mackenzie in the women's coxed pairs.

Johnson spares Britain's blushes

Great Britain 2
Spain 2

By SYDNEY FRASER

THE Great Britain women's hockey team dropped a precious point in the Olympic round-robin tournament yesterday, being held to a 2-2 draw by Spain in a game of changing fortunes. It was a match that Britain should have won comfortably, having secured the territorial advantage and created many opportunities.

Spain had lost all three of their previous matches, yet, with barely four minutes to go, they were in sight of victory. Only then did a goal from a short corner by Kathy Johnson spare Britain's blushes.

The Spaniards had choked



the middle of the field and checked the flow of Britain's attacks, but an early offensive earned a rich reward. Sue Fraser converting their second short corner with a strong hit in the eighteenth minute. A stick save by Johnson deprived the Spaniards of a reply from a short corner two minutes later.

Two minutes after that, though, Spain were awarded another short corner, from which Dorado scored. Britain immediately called on three substitutes — Christine Cook, Tina Cullen and Mandy Nicholls — all of whom set a lively pace.

In the second half, a solo run by Sixsmith led to a sequence of short corners that yielded no reward. Spain then went ahead in the 55th minute from a scramble that followed a short corner. The scorer was Gaballenas, a substitute forward, whose excursion down the right had provoked the short corner.

Britain, advancing in high gear, earned their eighth short corner in the 66th minute. The initial shot by Fraser was blocked, but Johnson was on hand to score on the rebound.

GREAT BRITAIN: H. Rose, S. Fraser, K. Johnson, K. Brown, J. Adams (captain), M. Davies, P. Robinson, T. Miller, J. Sixsmith, R. Simpson, A. Bennett. Substitutes used: C. Cook, T. Cullen, M. Nicholls, J. Moran. SPAIN: M. Gonzalez, C. Gonzalez, E. Urquiza, N. Dorado (captain), C. Barrio, B. Larzabal, S. de Irujo, M. Lopez, S. Barrio, M. Talara, M. Fello. Referee: J. Lopez. Umpires: R. Chetty (United States), M. Lee (South Korea).



British players celebrate their late equaliser

South Africa pounce on slips

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SOUTH Korea, the Asian champions, who are considered the dark horses of the Olympic men's hockey tournament, let a 3-1 lead against South Africa slip in the final minutes and were held to a 3-3 draw yesterday.

Both sides remain without a win after three matches, but South Africa's third draw enabled them to join the group leaders, Holland and Australia.

South Africa, newcomers to Olympic hockey, dominated the game only in the early and final minutes. South Korea led 1-0 at half-time from a 27th-minute penalty corner goal by Park Shin-heum, their most skillful midfielder player. They should have been further ahead, but missed three or

four chances in open play, and eventually increased their lead in the 51st minute with another penalty corner goal, scored by the full back, Shin Seok-kyu. Four minutes later, Gregory Nicol reduced South Korea's lead from a corner, but, on the hour, the Asian champions restored a two-goal margin with a tap-in by Kim Young-kyu.

Korea, passing too short in the closing minutes, presented South Africa with opportunities to attack. The African champions saved the game with a penalty stroke conversion by William Fulton in the 66th minute and another penalty corner goal by Nicol with two minutes remaining.

Hundreds of Asian expatriates from across the United

States have descended on Atlanta ahead of the match between India and Pakistan. The Clark Atlanta University campus, the Olympic hockey venue, is the focus for hordes of Indians and Pakistanis seeking tickets for the match.

Touts were selling \$22 tickets for \$100 after Games officials said the match at the 15,000-capacity Morris Brown College was sold out in June. "The demand is heavy, but we just don't have tickets," Roger Caruth, the press officer at the University, said. "No one anticipated this."

The rival camps appeared cool about the key encounter, which would throw the loser out of the race for semi-final placings.

ATLANTA BRIEFS

Organisers confronted by burning problem

AS THE athletics events open in the Olympic stadium today, the Atlanta Games organisers are faced with another headache. It concerns the flame, brought from Greece at great expense and supposed to burn brightly for the duration of the competition.

As if the transport chaos and computer difficulties have not presented the organising committee with enough problems, it transpires that, since being lit, memorably, by Muhammad Ali last Friday night, the outside of the bowl in which the flame is housed has begun to burn and the paint has peeled away. Poor quality flame resistant has been used on the coating of the bowl, designed by Shah Amarjani, an Iranian-born American.

Australians shine in Star clashes

FROM EDWARD GORMAN IN SAVANNAH

COLIN BEASHEL and David Giles of Australia, have put together what may turn out to be a decisive opening four races in the Star class with three wins and an eleventh place, to lead from Torben Grael and Marcelo Ferreira, the experienced Brazilians.

Beashel, a former 5.5 metre and International Etchells world champion, who played a crucial part in the Australian victory in the America's Cup in 1983, when he was John Bertrand's mainsheet trimmer, is no stranger to Olympic Star sailing, having competed in the last three Games, finishing seventh in the last two.

With a net score after four races of just three points, Beashel has a useful lead over Grael, another Olympic veteran who won bronze in the class in Seoul, who has nine points. A point further back are the defending gold medal winners from the United States, Mark Reynolds and Hal Haesel.

extend his lead. He finished between 20 and 30 boat-lengths ahead of Michael Heistback, of Denmark, with Anastasio Boudouris, of Greece, third. Although there are still a possible seven races to go, Beashel has already established a psychological hold on the fleet.

Reynolds, the favourite, whose goal in Barcelona followed a silver in Seoul behind Mike McIntyre and Bryn



Valle, of Britain, finished fifth for the second successive race. He acknowledged that Beashel was starting to build a strong position, but remains confident of his chances of defending his title.

Glyn Charles and George Skuodas, the British pairing, finished seventeenth and are unlikely to recover. Nevertheless, the Great Britain team has had a good start to the regatta, with medal chances in at least five classes. Ben Ainslie has recovered from a poor start in the Lasers to be fifth overall. Shirley Robertson won the fourth race in the Europe fleet to be third overall. Penny Wilson, in the women's windsurfing, is sixth and Andy Beadsworth in the Solings, is lying third. John Merricks and Ian Walker in the 470s had a horrible start, losing out to a big shift on the first beat to finish fifteenth.

Vine tune-in recommended for weighty entertainment

Night six — only 48 hours until the athletics and everyone starts bragging about how late they stayed up the night before. Don't you just hate Johnny-come-late-ies?

Most of them, of course, will be lying, bluffing their way through by tuning in to the endless re-runs that both Olympic channels, the BBC and Eurosport, have on offer. By last night, Michelle Smith had won her third gold medal half a dozen times on BBCi alone.

Eurosport is rather more wonderful, though. Those who know about the sport may hate him, but for those of us who pass through once every four years, he is ideal. He explains, he educates and he always entertains. His speciality could be described as the Johnny Morris school of commentary, potting words in the mouths of those unable to answer back.

"My goodness," he said during the 76kg class on Wednesday night as a Bulgarian coach engaged his charge in a strange pre-lift headlock. "talk about preparation. I thought he was going to pull his ears off." A few minutes later, he spotted a Greek coach animatedly delivering a few home truths. "All that is Greek for 'what do you think you're doing out there.'"

If he just clowned around, you would quickly weary of him, but Vine, veteran of *It's a Knockout*, *A Question of Sport* and umpteen seasons of *Ski Sunday*, has been around far too long to fall into that



Matthew Bond on the television marathon

trap. He knows enough about technique and judging to explain it to us and he knows enough about the competitors to make the event worth watching. In each case, his assumption is that we know nothing. At any other time of year, it would probably be the wrong one, but for the Olympics, when we all want to be two-minute experts, it is perfect.

By and large, the BBC has done an excellent job of remembering to explain the basic rules of each Olympic sport. The computer simulation of gymnastics may leave me feeling seasick, but at least I understand what Barry Davies is talking about now — except when he starts quoting Browning.

Nigel Starmer-Smith provided a similarly helpful starter pack for hockey, while on Wednesday night Hugh Porter managed to explain the mysteries of follow-my-leader cycle sprints in one sentence. Why had no one mentioned slipstreaming before?

The one notable exception to this admirable mission to explain is dressage, where Michael Tucker and Lorna Clarke appear to have given up all attempts to explain what is going on.

Des Lynam, however, is on to them. "Concentrate now," he said at the beginning of a highlights segment which concluded with Tucker at last expressing a sentiment that we could all understand: "Britain will be going all out for gold."

"Oh, good," said Des.

Hall and Knowles make progress

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

DARREN HALL, the only Briton with an outside hope of a badminton singles medal, suggested he may be ready for one of the last significant challenges of a long career when he outplayed Ron Michels, of Holland, in his opening match.

Hall, 30, conceded only eight points as he earned himself a second-round match with Lee Kwang Jin, the No 5 seed, from South Korea, a hurdle that can be considered difficult but not impossible. "I am very pleased. I was a bit nervous to start with, though I'm glad to have got a good match under my belt," the former European champion, from Essex, said.

He was joined in the second round by Peter Knowles, the British No 2, but the Kent player struggled to overcome the China-born champion, Kevin Han, representing the United States, 2-15, 15-10, 15-7.

Knowles had to push hard in the second game to avoid danger, although he now has a better chance than Hall of further progress. His next opponent, Jens Olsson, the Sweden No 1, had to struggle to survive against the little-known Kenneth Erichsen, from Guatemala.

Erichsen, who based himself at Wimbledon for six months and lived with the former English national champion, Anders Nielsen, looked to have improved notably and led 8-6 in the final game before going down 12-15, 15-6, 17-15.

Britain's No 1 woman, Jo-

anne Mugggeridge, missed two game points at 10-8 in the second game of her first-round match against the leading Russian, Elena Rybkina, and lost 11-6, 12-10. Rybkina, 32, the only mother playing top-class badminton, established her credentials in February with two wins in Prague that took her country into the world team finals. She has always struggled through lack of funds but yesterday showed



that her spirit in adversity suited the Olympic context.

"It was very difficult," Rybkina said, "but I liked the way she played and I will try to do even better next time." That next time will be against the Japanese No 1, Hisako Mizui.

There was an encouraging success in the women's singles for the first non-English Briton to get to the Olympics. Kelly Morgan, of Wales, was too steady for a nervous-looking Yang Shong, the Commonwealth bronze medal-winner, from Australia, and was only briefly delayed in the second game before winning 11-1, 11-3.

The best hopes of a first British Olympic medal in badminton lie with the efforts of Julie Bradbury, Joanne Wright, Simon Archer and Chris Hunt in the doubles events, which start today.

Women waiting

Weightlifting: Female weightlifters could be admitted to the next Olympics if the sport's governing body gets its way. "Women's weightlifting has progressed dynamically in the last few years," Tamás Aján, secretary general of the International Weightlifting Federation, said. "I think we have a good chance of competing at the Olympics. At Barcelona, in 1992, they won by an average of 43.8 points a game. The average in Atlanta has been 27 points.

Dream goes on

Basketball: The United States "Dream Team" reached the quarter-finals of the basketball with a 104-82 victory over Lithuania, but it was the narrowest margin of victory ever recorded by the National Basketball Association (NBA) all-stars at the Olympics. At Barcelona, in 1992, they won by an average of 43.8 points a game. The average in Atlanta has been 27 points.

Battling Barrett

Boxing: Francis Barrett, a gypsy from Ireland, recorded the most comprehensive victory in the boxing so far when he out-pointed Zely Ferreria, a light-welterweight from Brazil, 32-7 on Wednesday night. "The thing with computer scores is that you don't know whether you are ahead or behind," Barrett, 19, said, "so I just kept going."



RUGBY LEAGUE 36
Offiah capitalises on cross-code talks in London

SPORT

RACING 37
Injury rules Roberts out at Goodwood



FRIDAY JULY 26 1996

Lord's Test finely balanced after England expose opponents' batting frailties

Inzamam holds Pakistan together

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

LORD'S (first day of five, Pakistan won toss): Pakistan scored 290 for nine wickets against England

THE infamous fragility of Pakistan's batting once more threatened to be their undoing yesterday. Half an hour into the first Cornhill Test, with thousands of perspiring latecomers still locating their seats and complaining bitterly about the timing of the Tube strike, Inzamam-ul-Haq sauntered to the middle at Lord's with his side 12 for two. Calamity loomed, yet this engaging, imposing character had the unconcerned air of a man taking a stroll in the park.

He strolled to some effect. Inzamam, mortified to average only 13 in his first Test series here in 1992, batted through the next five hours of a blissful day virtually without error or anxiety. He did not wrest control of this game — and nobody can yet state with confidence where that lies — but his formidable presence was unbending against England's attempt to dictate absolute terms in the critical opening episode of a short series.

It was a considerable innings, the highest score of a Test career that had once seemed destined to remain grounded. The Inzamam England knew four years ago — the overweight and apparently overrated — has been transformed into a slimmer figure and a streamlined player, one

capable of introspection when the situation demands, yet equally adept at the flowing cover drive or the withering pull. Pakistan have long claimed him as a talent to rival the best in the world. Here was the proof.

It was not, however, a day of lost opportunity for England, much less a cause for recrimination. Inzamam made more than half his side's runs and another 74 came from Saeed Anwar. On a slow but true pitch, nobody else scored 20 and an England attack boasting only 24 caps among five bowlers can feel delighted with its productivity, if not entirely with its performance.

Deprived by injury of Chris Lewis, comfortably their most experienced bowler, England approached a daunting task with vitality and perseverance. They deserve great credit. The caveat must be added, however, for the seamers did not always maintain a challenging line and Dominic Cork too often strayed in length on a pitch where only the very quickest could expect to get away with it.

Quite how quickly Cork was bowling cannot be reported owing to the malfunctioning of the "Sword Sniper", unveiled two days earlier with the boast that it would "revolutionise cricket-watching". It worked adequately for no more than an hour of the day and the technical explanation was that its radar signals were being jumbled by the electronic sightscreen. As both are spon-

sored by the same razor manufacturers, no sympathy will result.

The empty seats were not confined to the stands, nor the reason to cancelled trains. Some of the commentary boxes were also thinly populated owing to conflicting engagements in the High Court libel action involving Imran Khan, Ian Botham and Allan Lamb. Thankfully, this unedifying sideshow did not divert anyone from the main event and Michael Atherton was on hand to lose the toss, just as he had in the three Tests against

Table with 2 columns: Category and Score. Includes Masterful innings (38), County scoreboards (38), Windows's century (38), Smith hits out (38).

India. An hour later, he would not have minded. By then, Simon Brown had marked his Test debut with an achievement that even he, the antithesis of vanity, will treasure. Entrusted with the new ball from the Pavilion End, the left-hander took a wicket before he had conceded a run. It came from his ninth ball, as he did precisely what Atherton had hoped, swinging the ball into the left-handed Amir Sohail to win a leg-before appeal.

and then, to his horror, found his bat tangling with his pads. He was bowled, middle stump, behind his legs, a bizarre way for a Test No 3 to lose his wicket.

It was mid-afternoon before England struck again. The third-wicket pair added 130 and, for all the lively field-settings of a conspicuously proactive Atherton, they were seldom troubled. Cork conceded 13 in the final over of the morning, an ominous precursor. Yet Atherton's developing willingness to try anything available came to the rescue.

For the fortieth over, he introduced Graeme Hick, who had not taken a Test wicket since December in Johannesburg. With his fourth ball, he induced a rare blenheim from Anwar, who top-edged a cut for Russell to grab the thick deflection at the third attempt. Against Pakistan, for whom nothing is ever quite as serene as it may seem, one breach is often all that is necessary.

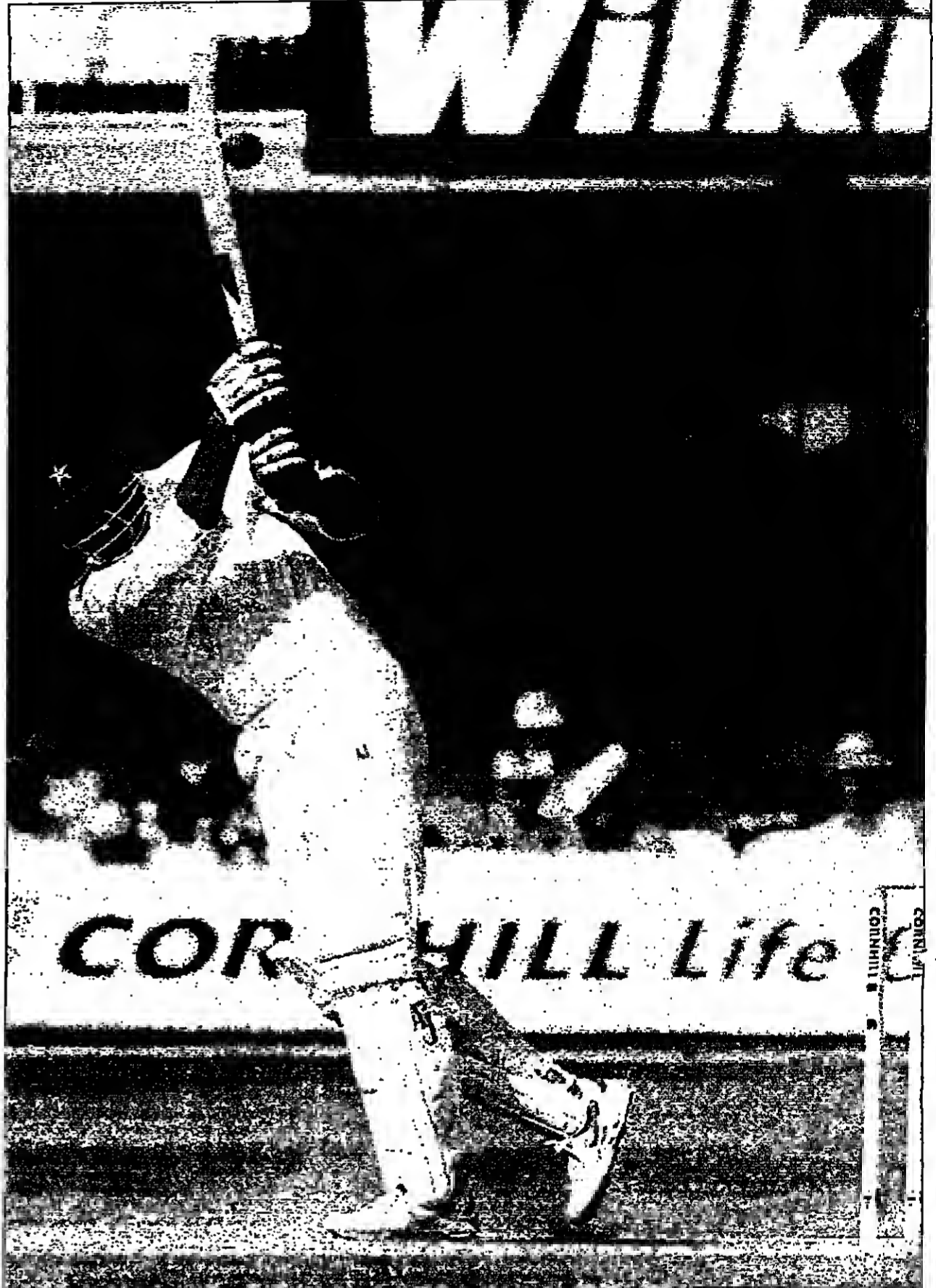
Salim Malik's sorry form continues. Reprised on nought, though the chance to Atherton at short extra cover was devilishly hard, he contrived to run himself out attempting a second run to Salisbury at mid-wicket.

This brought in the teenage newcomer, Shadab Kabir, who demonstrated an organised technique for the next 20 overs. However, the feeling persisted that England were now playing Inzamam on one level and the rest on another.

The final session proved as much. Five wickets fell after tea, starting with leg-before victims for Cork and Balham and ending with a spell of three for 14 from Mullyally, complementing his admirable economy with something more tangible.

It also completed a memorable day for the combination of Brown and Mullyally, who are the first pair of left-arm fast bowlers to play together for England since Frank Foster and Harry Dean in the triangular tournament of 1912.

The Pakistan lower order looked as vulnerable as the top end had done at the start of play. Only Inzamam, retiring with modest acknowledgement of a standing ovation, stopped this being a wonderful day for England but today they must confront and conquer the tougher suit of Pakistan cricket, the bowling.



Inzamam clubs Hick for six over the leg-side field to bring up his century on the opening day of the first Cornhill Test at Lord's yesterday. The Pakistan batsman went on to make 148. Photograph: Ian Stewart

SCOREBOARD FROM LORD'S

Scoreboard table showing Pakistan won toss, PAKESTAN: First Innings, and various player statistics like runs, wickets, and overs.



Brown: wicket on debut before conceding a run

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-23 indicating starting positions for clues.

No 844

- CROSS: 1 Performers; book after 21 (4), 3 Sound of merriment (8), 9 Chilly (4), 9 Attenuated (8), 11 Violetta/Cermont opera (Verdi) (2,8), 14 Water down (6), 15 Wolfgang von Goethe (6), 17 Of modest scope (5-5), 20 Sufficient (8), 21 - Koats; Augustus - (4), 22 Of the army (8), 23 Scope; plaster sealant (4). DOWN: 1 Knighthood shoulder-tap (8), 2 Giveaway (4-4), 4 Official language of Egypt (6), 5 Private home offering rooms (5,5), 6 Neat; cut down slightly (4), 7 Uncivilised; impolite (4), 10 Equivalent (10), 12 Pasta; old dandy (8), 13 Insect's feelers (8), 16 Partitioned Province (6), 18 Mutilate (body) (4), 19 Dangerous; collapsed (4).

The solution to 843 will be published Wednesday, July 31. READERS OF THE TIMES WE OFFER A WIDE RANGE OF TIMES PUBLICATIONS WITH FAST, EFFICIENT SERVICE PLUS FREE DELIVERY TO EU CUSTOMERS OF THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW AT RRP. SEND SAE FOR FURTHER DETAILS. STERLING/US DOLLAR CHEQUES ONLY. TIMES CROSSWORDS - Books, 3.99 to 15.99 each. Books 15 to 18 £3.50 each. The Times Crossword - Book 2 £4.99 puzzle £5.99. Books 3 to 5 £3.50 each. The Times Two - Books 3.4 £2.99 each. SUNDAY TIMES CROSSWORDS - Books 3.99 £3.99 each. Books 11, 12 £3.50 each. The Sunday Times Crossword Books 1, 2, 3 £3.50 each. Book 5 £2.99. Also The Times Quiz Book 1996 £4.99. TIMES COMPUTER CROSSWORDS (with HELP & TEAM facilities) by David Ashford. For IBM PCs and Acorn RISC OS Computers on 3.5 diskette NOW ONLY £9.99 per title. Times Crosswords Titles 1 to 11 & 14 to 19. The Times Concise Titles 1 to 5. The Times Two Titles 1 to 4. The Times Jubilee Edition - The Sunday Times Concise Titles 1 to 5. The Sunday Times Megapuzzle - The Sunday Times Crosswords Titles 1 to 13. Send cheques with maker payable to Alcom Limited, St. Martin Lane, London SE11 3JW. Delivery to 8 days (UK). Tel 0181 852 4515 (24hr) No Credit cards.

All oarsmen are equal, some more than others

FROM SIMON BARNES IN ATLANTA

LEAN on the rails of the parade ring before the Derby. Cast an eye over the beasts that march before you and pick a winner. And the truth hits you: they all look fabulous. And that is because they all are fabulous, the 500-1 outsider and the even-money favourite, two wonderful, glossy athletes. They weigh the same, work the same, eat the same, train the same. And one will crave the lead, burst to assert his dominance through speed and power, while the other will accept his inferior status. Which horse will give his all, content in the knowledge that he will never lead the herd? Which will always have his nose in front, cannot bear to be passed even at a walk? Just from looking, there is no way to tell. In horse racing, as in all sport, it is the mystery of mysteries.

And that is Steve Redgrave for you. Certainly, he is tall, beautifully built, very strong, a wonderful athlete — but, then, aren't they all? In the Lake Lanier complex, I am surrounded by wonderful athletes, and a brave sight it is, too.

There is more to winning rowing events than strength, of course. First, there is the matter of fitness, not something you normally associate with such big men as Redgrave and his partner, Matthew Pinsent. It is the way in which you apply your force that moves a boat. And there is the matter of racing nous and, with it, racing nerve. Both men said ungrudgingly that they will be nervous on Saturday as the



final begins. "When you've been together as a pair for a long time," Redgrave said, "the minor races don't mean so much. And the big races matter even more."

They don't get a great deal bigger than the one on Saturday and Redgrave, asked once again to talk us through it, stared moodily past us, chin on hands. He is a quiet, steady man at the best of times, but here it seemed that something in him had gone slightly dead. What's up, Steve?

He looked up, mildly startled at this question intruding on his brooding. "Down to serious business now," he said. "My mind is elsewhere. My mind is on the job. On the last two or three training sessions we've got left. On the race. Sorry I'm not with you."

It was a revealing moment, from a man who does not reveal much; nothing to declare but his genius. Most athletes give themselves away in competition; joys and paroxysms of self-doubt are revealed in a thousand expressions and bits of body language. But Redgrave gives away nothing. He faces a race

for which he has been the overwhelming favourite for four years.

Most see it almost as a ritual enthronement as Redgrave joins the sporting immortals, four gold medals in four Games and all that. But Redgrave sees opponents to destroy. At the last world championships, he and Pinsent surveyed the pretenders to their dominance. At the start, Redgrave said: "Let's crush some dreams."

One wonders at the strength of desire, the greed for dominance that keeps Redgrave in the dream-crushing business. The United States pair had been touted as a serious threat to the big Brits, and they came out storming. Redgrave and Pinsent gave them a lesson in racing, and delivered it with some viciousness.

The American crew gave them all from the start, and that is not a wise thing to do. The relegation of the Americans to the B final gave quiet pleasure to Redgrave. "Our aim is to win gold," he said. "It's hard to do that from the B final."

They qualified with the third fastest time. Does that worry you Steve? All we got from that one was a head-shake. His mind was again miles away, filled not with dreams of victory but with the brutal six-and-a-bit minutes of racing that lie ahead.

There are some horses that get so enraged if a horse attempts to pass them that they bare their teeth and bite. If anyone tries to pass Redgrave on Saturday, expect him to lean, snarling, out of his boat and savage them.

Christie eyes the possibility of defeat

FROM DAVID POWELL ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Linford Christie we know was not the Linford Christie we heard yesterday and certainly not the Christie we are used to seeing. He sounded like a man bracing himself for defeat and the look of fixed determination in his eyes had given way to blue contact lenses coated with his sponsor's logo.

As he prepared to begin the defence of his Olympic 100 metres title today, Christie said something we had not heard from him before: "Winning is not everything." He was, he added, "more laid back, more relaxed" than for previous championships. Then, realising he was promoting the chances of Frankie Fredericks, who starts as favourite, he added: "If people say I'm more relaxed because I have accepted I am going to lose, to those people I say: 'Hey, you don't know me very well.' We got as good a chance as anybody."

"Will he be wearing the lenses today?" he was asked. "That remains to be seen," he replied. "The IOC will probably hear about them and ban them."

Jonathan Edwards, Britain's best gold-medal hope, said yesterday that he was not entirely happy with his technique as he prepares for the qualifying round of the triple jump today. It was not, he said, as "solid" as it had been last year, when he broke the world record twice in taking the world title in Gothenburg.

Three through, page 41

Golden oldies, page 42

Advertisement for American Express Travellers Cheques on the spot at Lloyds Bank. Includes text: 'WE'LL GIVE YOU YOUR AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVELLERS CHEQUES PRONTO. NOT MAÑANA. American Express Travellers Cheques on the spot at Lloyds Bank.' and logos for Travellers Cheques and Lloyds Bank.

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, mentioning 'An invest' and 'Op'.